

# Maclean's

Canada's

Weekly Newsmagazine

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**MARGARET ATWOOD**

An Intriguing Family Saga

**TED ROGERS**

The Blue Jay Play

**MARNIE McBEAN**

Olympic Heartbreak

  
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# This Week

**Maclean's**  
Canada's Weekly Magazine

September 9, 2000 \$4.95 (incl. GST)

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**ROGERS  
MEDIA**

## Cover



## 18 New night on the right

Emboldened by Stockwell Day's victory in the Canadian Alliance leadership campaign, social conservatives in Canada are on the march. Abortion remains the hot-button issue, but Day has acknowledged that so-cons need to broaden their base beyond conservative Christians.

## Features



## 34 The Blue Jay play

Cable bacon Tad Ragan hopes his purchase of the Toronto Blue Jays will help him expand his media domain as well as home one of Canada's troubled sports franchises.

## 48 Olympic heartbreak

A back ailment forces rower Marnie McBeau, one of Canada's most admired amateur athletes, to withdraw from the Sydney Games.



## 54 Atwood's intriguing new saga

The *Blind Assassin*, the latest novel by the grande dame of CanLit, Margaret Atwood, is a sprawling social canvas on class and gender politics.

From the  
**Editor**

## Clear choices for the next election

The conservatives of Canada are on the march, not Joe Clark's Conservatives, who are negotiating, not pragmatizing. No, the momentum now belongs to the right-thinking people who are supporting Stephen Harper's Conservative Alliance. Although the Liberals still enjoy a comfortable lead in national polls, the Alliance threat has them in a cusp.

There is nothing quite like a looming election to turn Liberals into cross programers. In the 1970s, as Canadian nationalism flourished, the party of Pierre Trudeau stripped the NDP cupboard of policies. First, came the pro-conservative Foreign Investment Review Act and, later, the National Energy Program. Then Jean Chrétien sowed that, if elected prime minister, he would abolish the infamous GST and reopen the free trade agreement. He has done neither.

Now, it is the revenge on the right. Last week, the Prime Minister appeared ready to zip up his Red Book policy of saving half of any budgetary surplus for debt reduction and his cuts and 50 per cent for program spending. At the rate the federal government is raising its revenues, the surplus for the

fiscal year ending next spring could be a stunning \$30 billion. A formula that commits the country to spending half of a spiralling surplus on new programs is wide open to attack from the right, and Chrétien knows it. Besides, Alberta, the heartland of the Alliance, is poised to wipe out its accumulated debt, possibly in the next three years, and the Alliance has made tax cuts a primary plank.

When the next election is called, is it possible there won't be any real difference between the Liberals and the Alliance? Unlikely. But both parties are now involved in internal struggles that will determine their general principles. Will the Alliance move to the centre? Will the Liberals go to the right?

In the Alliance, the debate has been sparked by social-conservative candidates who are challenging sitting MPs elected as moderate Reformers, part of a trend explored in this week's cover story (page 18). And Finance Minister Paul Martin has become the rallying point for fiscal conservatives in the Liberal caucus who fear a spending binge.

Historically the Liberals have always done better in elections when they

moved to the left. But with the polls showing that Alliance support is increasing, deserting the social-liberals might prove risky for the Liberals. The reason the Conservative vote has collapsed and surveys indicate that more Conservatives would switch to the Alliance than to the Liberals.

Still, it is difficult to see that even Chrétien's Liberals can abandon some historic party tenets that distinguish them from the Alliance: pro-choice on abortion, no capital punishment and a central role for the national government in areas like health care. Day, on the other hand, steadfastly advocates decentralizing power to the provinces and reforming on issues like abortion and capital punishment. When the parties sort out their internal differences, it is likely that Canadians will face clear choices. It promises to be a watershed debate for Canada.

*Robert Lewis*

[reporter@newsline.ca](mailto:reporter@newsline.ca) to comment on From the Editor



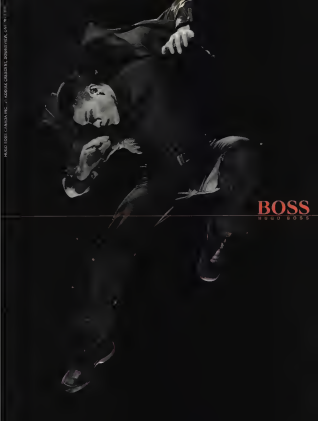
## Newsroom Notes Summer work

There were mixed feelings last week at the annual farewell lunch for Atlantic summer interns. They return to class with leave hopes for a new year, leaving behind a host of good friendships—and new friends. This year's crop included Vancouver's Caitlin Glynn-Morris, 19, a Queen's political science major who did research for the



Atlantic Weaver, Brown, Francis, friends annual university-seeking issue. Lisa Weaver, 25, earned her keep as a regular researcher-reporter, as did fellow

Western grad, John Lewis, 23. She returns to complete her degree in journalism at Ryerson, while Lewis plans to begin M.A. studies at the University of Toronto. Those may be part-time duties: he has an interview for a day job at Macdonald's coming up. Darren Brown, 20, of Simsbury, Ont., had numerous pictures published while he worked as the photo department. He heads back to Loyola College in Belleville, Ont., to complete a photo-journalism program. We are grateful to our outstanding class of 2000.



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# Overture

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Edited by Anthony Wilton-Smith  
with Shanda Drazul

## Over the Border

### They say, 'God bless, firefighters'

At a campy fairgrounds in Hamilton, Ontario, nearly 7,000 one-person tents have been set up for visiting firefighters battling some of the worst blazes in history. Last week, at least 140 tents belonged to Canadians. In total, more than 700 Canadian firefighters from across the country have been called south of the border—and over the past months, their towns have closed homes and protected communities by diverting fire away from populated areas. Kerrie Crawford, 42, a fire-management technician from Perry Sound, Ont., is firefighting his second year in the Shillabala region of Montana. He described the situation to Assistant Editor Shanda Drazul.

All around, the fires are still burning out of control; it's going to take weeks to get them out. Some of the Canadians speak up to the steep terrain and high mountains. My legs are telling me. And there's hardly any water there; there are no lakes, and this is a drought. Back home, we have three- and four-person crews using pumps and hose. We would use our half-inch nozzles and just pound the fire with water. Here, they have 30-person crews using hand shovels. You have to build a fireline line around the fire's edge by digging down to mineral soil. The soil is supposed to stop the advance of the fire. But if the blazes are burning on the tops of 100-foot ponderosa



Crawford is firefighting his second year in the Shillabala region of Montana. He described the situation to Assistant Editor Shanda Drazul.

pine and Douglas fir, then it can jump the line pretty quick. On my previous trip, we had to pull back and retreat from the fire for six of 10 days, it was so intense. All you can do is watch. I spent two weeks there and we didn't accomplish anything. But we were eventually able to move it west of a canyon road and south of another road and contain it in that area. A lot of structures were saved. Now, our fire has died down and we're putting out hot spots—logs, deadwood and underground moss that are still burning. Yesterday, I worked with a team of males. They pulled two miles of hose and used the guys from hiking up and down the hills. It's interesting country; we've seen elk, bighorn sheep, mule deer and even happened upon a narwhale.

The people are great. There are signs everywhere saying, "Thank you, firefighters." "God bless, firefighters." "Good work, firefighters." But they're confused by our uniforms. American firefighters wear green and yellow. Our crews wear orange coveralls, and in a lot of cases, that's what protesters wear. So people are saying, "Oh, they must have an intense crew down here." It's funny; we definitely stand out.

## Overheard

### Dodge's city?

Mark some well-known names in and out of the over-shifting race to succeed Bank of Canada governor Gordon Thiessen in January. Until recently, banking contenders were the senior deputy governor and corpo-

rate favourite, Malcolm Knight; Royal Bank chairman John McCallum, and deputy health minister David Dodge. Now, insiders say Dodge is the favourite, thanks to backing from his minister, Allan Rock, and good relations with both Paul Martin and Jean Chrétien—a remarkable achievement these



O'Neill: in or out?

days Dodge was Martin's deputy until 1997. Meanwhile, McCallum appears to have dropped out of contention, while Bank of Montreal economist Tim O'Neill is newly mentioned in high circles. But Dodge remains favoured—with strong backing on Bay Street as well as in Ottawa.



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## Over and Under Achievers

## 'I'm Joe, a blue lobster'

The Post and Globe wrote the play? The PM, how witty! A Tory lobster, the witty-gitty! And Toronto sitting pretty!

- ◆ **Politicians' busy life:** Jean Chrétien calls Stoddard Day "a headache" and "blue-mell." Day says PM is being "hysterical." That also graceful behaviour is smart sign of a coming election.

- ◆ **Lobsters:** About one in every three million is colored blue. Last week, a specimen from Nova Scotia was rescued from near-extinction and given new life. Snags, hope yet for Joe Clark!



- ◆ **Handheld computers:** It's their turn to be disabled by a virus. Make a note of this—if you still can.
- ◆ **Newspaper wars:** First, *The Globe and Mail* runs feature knocking *National Post*. Then the *Post* runs feature knocking the *Globe*. *Kweek*, *kweek*, who owns!
- ◆ **Toronto:** Our self-proclaimed "world-class" city is among final five contenders to host '08 Olympics. To win, it'll need a world-class jump.
- ◆ **Marnie McBeck:** A back injury will keep avenge great out of Sydney Olympics. But after three gold medals, it's time we say thank.

## Seams and Flin-flams

## The old lost-luggage routine

The request seemed straightforward. The caller wanted Dr. Mohamed Elmasry, president of the Canadian Islamic Congress and a computer engineering professor at the University of Waterloo, to introduce visitors from Saudi Arabia to Canada's top Muslim business leaders. The caller spoke Arabic, claimed to represent the pro-

igious International Islamic Bank and knew all about Elmasry and his organization. He was told someone would call on arrival at Toronto Pearson airport on Aug. 10. The next day, Elmasry received another call, saying the group was stranded in London and their luggage, with credit cards and traveller's cheques, had been shipped ahead. Could he send \$2,000? Elmasry agreed to use his credit card. But when they insisted on cash—and the caller number they gave him proved to be phony—he realized he was being conned. "It was in their nature,"

said Elmasry. "I would call a friend or relative, not a stranger."

Elmasry was later told by other Muslims, who related similar stories, that members of Canada's Islamic community are being targeted by one artist. That they may be wary they tried Elmasry: he put a warning in the *Friday Bulletin*, a publication produced by his association that reaches some 250,000 people worldwide, including 100,000 Canadians. "The caller used Islamic religious phrases," said Elmasry. "It was very convincing."

Tom Fenech



Along with back-to-school blues, students need less of green

## Listen up—and pay up!

So you think inflation is a thing of the past? Not if you're a Canadian university student. As students head off to campus, a look at the pace at which fees have risen in respective provinces over the past decade, as rendered by Statistics Canada.

Province	1990-1991	2000-2001	% change
British Columbia	\$1,727	\$2,520	45.8
Alberta	1,244	3,541	286.6
Saskatchewan	1,528	3,304	115.8
Manitoba	1,415	2,873	103
Ontario	1,853	3,871	140.2
Quebec	902	1,888	110.4
New Brunswick	1,886	3,618	85.4
Prince Edward Island	1,840	3,488	89.1
Nova Scotia	1,843	4,408	125.3
Newfoundland	1,344	3,300	145.3
Canada	1,486	3,278	125.8

In Quebec, fees for both in- and out-of-province students are included in the weighted average calculations.

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## Over to You



Hélène Katz

## Walk a mile with my eyes

You wouldn't want me behind the wheel of a car. Especially not your car. I have a visual impairment and can't see clearly for more than a few feet in front of me. That's why you should be thankful that I don't have a driver's licence. But this is one of the few things I can't do. I still get up in the morning, work as a reporter, buy groceries and live up at the bank. But throughout my day, I'm constantly adapting to a world created for people who see better than I. Take elevators, for example. In order for me to get off on the right floor, I count as the numbered lights go off above the door—because the numbers themselves are too tiny for me to see. The method is by no means foolproof. That's where I get a little impromptu exercise running up or down the back stairs.

Most people don't think of me as having a disability because the word conjures up images of someone in a wheelchair. The vision problem I was born with can't be fully corrected with glasses or contact lenses—I often wear contacts for gaming around and a pair of glasses on top of the contacts when I'm reading. The advantage of being in my position is that people don't make assumptions about when they think I can or can't do. Problem is, people don't tend to realize just how much energy I expend adapting to a world that wasn't designed for me. While I'm able to adjust to most situations, there are times when I can't. Then the responsibility shifts to those around me.

More than 19 years ago, in Ireland, I set out on a 56-km cycling trip with six people I had just met at a youth hostel. It soon became obvious that cycling was not only difficult for me, but also dangerous. My eyes were busy looking for bumps and holes in the road, bushes to the side and the pack of cyclists ahead. I could imagine if I can passed at long intervals, because it meant I only had to concentrate intensely for a moment. But when a stream of cars passed me, I had to get off my bike and walk.

Our group split into two packs. Four people sped ahead while two others stayed back and cycled slowly with me. When we stopped for lunch, I told Marie, one of the two cycling with me, how bad I felt that I was keeping her from riding with the others. Her response was simple: "My sister has diabetes and is losing her sight. I think it's our responsibility to make sure that she is included in everything we do." For her, adapting to someone else's disability was second nature.

The rest of the group evidently agreed with her, though nothing was said. Over lunch they looked at a map, trying to find a shorter route to make the trip easier for me. When Patricia, another member of the group, said she wanted to ride back to the hostel instead of completing the trip, I realized I had another option. Rather than making the decision for me, they gave me a choice. I decided to ride back. In this day, I'm still touched by the way they tried to accommodate me without fanfare, as though it was a perfectly common occurrence. I wish more non-disabled people were as thoughtful.

Although I was able to give cycling a shot, I still haven't figured out how to dance—the added freedom and independence would be nice. But there is one advantage when I'm out with friends. I go to be the designated driver.

After 19 years, Hélène Katz is still in Montreal. Subscribers may be sent to over 200 countries or as far as (416) 295-7239. We cannot respond to all queries.

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## Overture

## PASSAGES

**Appointed:** Giuliano Zaccarelli, who is known as Canada's pre-eminent fighter of organized crime, was sworn in as commissioner of the RCMP. The 52-year-old Italian immigrant, who grew up in Montreal, has spent most of his 20-year career heading up criminal investigations in Alberta, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario.

Zaccarelli, the first immigrant to hold the top post in the force, most recently became the Montreal's first deputy commissioner for organized crime. His appointment is a consequence of a widely viewed act by the RCMP will intensify efforts in such areas as fraud and money laundering, and cross-border, white-collar and organized crime. He replaces Philip Murray, who is retiring.

**Died:** Quebec feminist and labour activist Les Roback, 96, lived in New York City and Europe during her 20s, studying art and literature. In 1951, she joined the Communist party in Germany, fearful of the rise of Adolf Hitler. The next year, she moved to Montreal, where she married a Marxist bookshop. In 1957, she led a massive strike of 5,000 clerks and garment workers—some of the first battles for workers' rights in the province. She later helped lead the country's anti-fur movement. Equally at home in Quebec's English- and French-speaking communities, she was named to the Order of Quebec earlier this year by Premier Lucien Bouchard. Roback died from injuries sustained in a recent fall at a senior home in Montreal.

**Hired:** The CBC named Joel Durkin, a 19-year veteran in the television production business, as the next executive producer of *Hardy Night* in Canada. Durkin, 57, worked part





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## Passages

dies on *HNIC* from 1981 to 1986 while attending what is now Ryerson Polytechnic University. He is an experienced producer of CBC Olympic coverage and is currently executive producer for this year's Sydney Games.

**Ordered:** Darryl Needler, the Vancouver musician who unsuccessfully sued singer Sarah McLachlan for copyright infringement, must now pay her legal bills. Before the trial, McLachlan's managers made Needler a settlement offer worth 20 years of his salary. But Needler refused, and his claim that he wrote some songs on McLachlan's debut album was later rejected. Now the B.C. Supreme Court has ruled that Needler, who filed for bankruptcy in April, must compensate McLachlan to the tune of \$250,000.

**Died:** Known as the "Black Moses," former prime minister Lyndon B. Johnson, 73, led the Bahamas to independence from Britain in 1973. He helped found the country's Progressive Liberal Party in 1953, in opposition to the mostly white United Bahamian Party. Elected prime minister in 1967, he pursued policies that allowed for greater access to education, creating a large black middle class. Although claims of bribery and involvement in drug trafficking led to his party's defeat in 1992, they were never substantiated. Pindling died in Nassau of prostate cancer.

**Granted:** A Calgary judge granted American actor Dennis Hopper an absolute discharge on a marijuana possession charge. Hopper was arrested at the Calgary airport last October, when he had flown in to make a name—and ran into a vigilante dog who sniffed out two film canisters containing 12 grams of pot. Lawyer Edward Greenman pleaded guilty on Hopper's behalf, but argued that in real life Hopper, 64, is not the stoned biker he played in the 1969 cult classic *Easy Rider*. The judge's decision leaves Hopper with no criminal record and, in turn, the actor made a \$1,000 donation to a Calgary AIDS hospice.

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## Maclean's covers the Olympics



This September, as Sydney prepares to play host to the 2000 Summer Olympics, Maclean's is preparing to send its own team of veteran Olympians Down Under. Sports editor James Osocon, Sunday editor Andrew Phillips and photographer Peter Desjardins will be in Aotearoa throughout the Games to capture both the events at the finish line as well as the dramas that unfold behind the scenes. And, columnist Allan Fotheringham plans to draw his own bead on the Olympic spectacle. Their updates, observations and insights will also be featured on [www.macleans.ca](http://www.macleans.ca).

Maclean's coverage of the Olympics begins on September 11 with the publication of a 28-page plus report, featuring a comprehensive profile of Canada's team in Sydney and an authoritative guide to the Games.

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Anthony Wilson-Smith

## The PM's bully pulpit

**In Christian: The Will to Win.** Lawrence Martin's terrific book about Jean Chrétien's early life, he tells a revealing story about his subject's formative political years. In 1961, Jean Chrétien was fresh from studying law at Quebec City's Laval University, where, as Martin writes, he "was so thoroughly exposed to metropolitan gossip from so many of his friends that he could hardly help" flirting with that side. Ottawa civil servant Marcel Chaput had just been fired for voicing separatist views, and one night Chrétien, as Martin describes it, "defended Chaput, and by extension the sovereignty movement." He continued until a federalist friend tore into him, saying: "You don't even know how to speak English. You've hardly ever been in English Canada. Why don't you learn something before you go talking through your hat?" Chrétien was initially furious, but eventually calmed down and returned to his federalist views.

It's fascinating to consider, 39 years later, what an older, more experienced Chrétien might do if confronted with such behavior today from another: the evidence suggests he'd say even a temporary betrayal of federalism was unforgivable, and the offender should be cast out from the Liberal party forever. Witness his reaction last week to news that two former Bloc Québécois MPs have renounced sovereignty and joined the Canadian Alliance. "A separatist cannot be rescued," the PM said. "He can only be defeated." If you raised the point, he added that "history has taught us how dangerous it is to try to seduce separatists."

By that measure, since Chrétien once took the side of separatists, he can't be trusted. Neither can Sports Minister Dennis Coonan or Unity Minister Stephen Dost, who both supported sovereignty in the 1980 referendum, or MP Yvon Charest, a former high-profile union leader and separatist who supported the Parti Québécois up until 1993. But if they were all to be banished from the Libs on account of their two-alice policy, they'd at least have lots of new friends to hang out with—the 49.5 per cent of Quebecers who voted Yes in the 1995 referendum. By Chrétien's reckoning logic, none can be rehabilitated—their deserved fate is to be hit over the head at every opportunity by Ottawa.

The PM won't follow his logic to such a conclusion, of course, because it applies only to Quebecers who want to play for another federalist team. But you get the gist of what, it's clear, will be a key part of Liberal election strategy: they can't win more seats in Quebec under Chrétien, so they won't try. To understand the handball the Libs are playing, consider some important distinctions about the way that Goodwill Day and the Alliance took in welcoming ex-Bloc MPs Richard Bélisle and Nic LeBlanc. Bélisle said he crossed over

because "what people want is a reconciliation with the rest of Canada—to be a part of Canada," while LeBlanc said "the vast majority of Quebecers do not really want Quebec to separate." And, said Day, in a somewhat more courteous fashion for more than 100 minutes: "I have never, nor will I, seek a political coalition with the Bloc." The concern among separatist wingers, for federalists and, by definition, against sovereignty. Win over some more voters like that, and serious talk of another referendum might disappear entirely.

But that, come to think of it, wouldn't suit the Liberals, so long as they're setting themselves up as the best cops of the federalism. Still, they talk a much tougher game than they deliver for all the rhetoric about refusing to "induce" Quebec voters, that's precisely what they do in tangible terms. When the National Post earlier this year analyzed spending by the federal Transnational Jobs Fund and Canada Jobs Fund programs between 1996 and 2000, it found Quebec received more than twice as much from the programs as any other province. The PM's riding received more money than the entire provinces of Alberta, Manitoba or Saskatchewan.

But the false bravado doesn't stop there. Consider how the PM recently rolled on Lucien Bouchard last week to hold another referendum—somehow figuring that the last one gave Chrétien the greatest scare of his political life. And then the dismissive manner in which the PM declared that "if you want to have a new round of March, you might vote for Goodwill Day." Actually, a lot of federalist Quebecers—most of whom think the March Lake accord would have banned separatism once and for all—may be tempted to do just that.

Quebec is easy to pick on, given its years' perpetual constitutional dabbling and Lucien Bouchard's habitual outrage at everything Ottawa does. But the province still isn't a formal adversary to the Constitution, and no prime minister should be gloating about that. It's particularly startling to see a prime minister from Quebec mock a political leader from elsewhere in Canada for trying to defuse tensions.

There's no doubt that some Alliance policies would dramatically reshape Canada—starting with the massive decentralization of power to the provinces that Day proposes. That deserves an informed public debate, which Day appears ready to engage in. But the Libs so far prefer to wage a cruddy divisive campaign that will pit English Canada against Quebec, and subject Quebecers to a loyalty test about not only present but past beliefs. It amounts to a question that starts with the phrase "Are you now or have you ever been . . ." and no one should like where that takes us. For years, critics in Quebec have called the PM a bully, but few people elsewhere understood why. Now we know.

# A Lingering Trauma

Two years later, grieving relatives share painful memories of the Swissair crash with Nova Scotians who comforted them

By Sharril Aikenhead in Peggys Cove

**European business executive** Ian Shaw was used to travelling the world, but the drive he made on a swerving Nova Scotia road on a September day two years ago was unlike any other. Shaw's only daughter, Stephanie, 23, had been returning home to Geneva from a holiday in New York City when her travel plans changed. After being rescued onto another plane, she was among the 229 killed when Swissair Flight 111 crashed into the Atlantic Ocean on Sept. 2, 1998, 13 km off Nova Scotia. Shaw, busy in the crash site after flying in from Switzerland, felt he couldn't reach it quickly enough. But after navigating the fog-thickened, seaside road to Peggys Cove, N.S., Shaw—who had just started a work commute back home—finally found the spot where the MD-11 had crashed into the waters of the Atlantic. It was then he decided to change his life.

"The fog lifted so I started the hull and suddenly everything was blue as the sea and I realized my world had ended as I knew it."

Personal tragedy took Shaw to Nova Scotia that day—and two years later, he is living no more than 15 km from the crash site. After a lifetime accumulating things, he couldn't bear to carry on the way he had before the disaster. So a year ago, with only his favourite classical music CDs and books, he left Geneva and opened Shaw's Landing, a seafood restaurant in tiny Wit's Diner, four kilometres east of Peggys Cove. "It's the right place," the Scottish-born 63-year-old said last week, referring to the compassion Nova Scotians have shown. "It isn't a matter of condolence. It has been a matter of survival. The goodness here is undiminished and good is important right now."

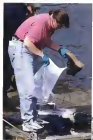
The Swissair crash remains a devastating event for many, from the families of the victims, to the fishermen who con-

ducted futile searches for survivors, to the local volunteers and military personnel who took part in the grisly salvage operations. And the crash remains particularly perplexing for investigators who are still trying to determine exactly why the MD-11 went down. Last week, the Hull, Que.-based Transport Safety Board released a report saying it does not know what caused an electrical fire in the cockpit. Before the crash, veteran pilot Urs Zimmermann had reported anomalies in the cockpit to regional air-traffic controllers in Montreal, N.B. After deciding to land in Halifax, Zimmermann guided the jet in a U-pattern over St. Margarets Bay to dump fuel and reduce altitude. At 10:24 Atlantic daylight time, he declared an emergency and at 10:30, the jet slammed into the Atlantic, fracturing into two million pieces.

The impact continues to be felt. About 115 people remained last Saturday to two memorials around along St. Margarets Bay. They also had a private dinner with residents who helped recover the bodies or performed simple acts of kindness, such as feeding them sandwiches and tea. Several others scooped out porpoises, no that, like Shaw, they could be near their loved ones resting place. "It's a terrible beauty for them," observed John O'Donnell, a Halifax military chaplain who helped bury hundreds of relatives in the ocean's crash site.

One relative, Philip Baker, cycled for 30 days from Baton Rouge, La., to commemorate the deaths of his step-in-law, Karen Mueller, her husband, Denis, and their 14-month-old son, Robert. Baker said many of the families feel permanently grateful to the 1,600 Nova Scotian volunteers. "We now have an extended family," he said, "because of the people who helped and are still helping in the aftermath of the crash."

At \$50 million, the Swissair crash investigation has become Canada's most expensive. "It is turning out to be one of the longest, most complex investigations in history," says TSB spokesperson Jim Harris. Investigators still don't know what happened during the six minutes after Zimmermann declared the emergency and the flight recorder stopped. They suspect the wiring of the communication console may have caused the initial spark. But they do not speculate any



Sorting debris during the salvage operation in 1998, inconclusive



Shaw at his Wit's Diner restaurant: The goodness here is undiminished and good is important right now

further and it could be another year before an answer is found. "Are we ever going to find all of the missing the crash? I don't know," lead investigator Vic Gaudes said when the report was released. Responded Barbara Frenkel, who lost her daughter Jane "I am grateful that they are taking their time to do a thorough investigation, but I haven't found their updates to really give us much information. We are hopeful that the final report will give us more ideas of what happened that horrible night."

The mystery behind the crash has bred a mini-industry of books, lawsuits and television movies. CTV will broadcast *Blind Swimmer After Flight 111*, a fictionalized account of the crash starring Kate Nelligan, in October. Several Web sites receive up to 500 hits a day, especially whenever another plane crashes. Handfuls of families remain connected through international associations operating in the United States and Europe.

The tragedy remains all too fresh in Nova Scotia, as well. Some locals still receive counselling because of lingering trauma. The plane's horrific impact raised none of the remains drawn from the water or washed ashore were recognizable. The medical examiner could only make identifications through DNA. "Ed said there are four people [in the

luggage] was back to work and they may never come back," said O'Donnell.

With the crash still stirring so much emotion, Shaw's is insured. Lloyd's of London, backed off plans in May to search for \$300 million in ransom from a ransom-steel tube. Lloyd's apologized to the families, who called the proposed divvvy gross robbery. Many families are proceeding with legal action. More than 100 lawsuits asking \$16 billion in damages are before U.S. courts. And last week, Swissair paid an undisclosed amount to 59 fishermen who sought compensation because they could not fish in the crash-site waters for a month. Another 50 claims are ongoing.

Ian Shaw was part of a class-action suit, but dropped it. He had tried to blend into the Nova Scotia community where he lives (his wife of 30 years, Gudula, remains in Geneva). This year, he opened a post office in his restaurant for the residents of Wit's Diner and he now employs eight people. His counselling, he says, is the "occasional horrors" where his daughter's ashes are scattered. Still, Shaw has not yet visited the memorial site overlooking the Atlantic Ocean where the names of all 229 are etched on a granite marker. "I cannot go," he says, his voice breaking. "I am not strong enough yet to see her name written in stone." ■



Polar bear in open water, grazing ecological treasure

## Canada Environment

# Disturbing forecasts

Global warming could devastate northern habitats

By Mark Nichols

Working with environmental data stored in computers that simulate climate change, two scientists last summer decided to see what would happen to the world's national parks if global temperatures rose sharply in the coming century. The results were startling. "The 20 parks that would be most seriously challenged," said Jay Malcolm, a University of Toronto forestry expert, "were all in Canada." A report published last week detailing the scientists' findings contained some disturbing forecasts for Canada and the world. It suggested global warming could drastically transform 35 per cent of the earth's existing habitats, leaving northern regions the hardest hit. More than 60 per cent of habitats in Canada's north could shrink and vast forests—scorched by rising temperatures and parched by a lack of moisture—could die. As habitats dwindle, animal populations, including caribou, polar bears, Pacific salmon and freshwater trout, could shrink or disappear. "Ecological networks are building," says Malcolm, "but could destroy habitats and species."

Unlike most global-warming studies, the report for the World Wide Fund for Nature (formerly the World Wildlife Fund) focused less on the intricate interplay of emissions in the atmosphere than on their likely terrestrial consequences. It came at a time when Canada is under pressure to start meeting its commitments under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. Despite Ottawa's pledge to cut fossil-fuel emissions to six per cent below 1990 levels by 2012, Canadian carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions have been rising steadily. "We have to go beyond mere rhetoric," says Robert Harrington, an Ottawa-based climate-change specialist for Alberta Pembina Institute, an environmental research group, "and start taking action."

The new report puts forward a bleak vision of what could lie in store for life on earth if emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other gases overwhelm the atmosphere—a hypothesis some scientists dispute. Malcolm and co-author Adam Markham, a Portsmouth, N.H., zoologist, arrived at their conclusion by tapping into American and European computer models.

They estimated that heat-trapping CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere will rise during the 21st century to twice the world's level 30 years ago, raising average global temperatures by between 2° and 8° C.

Then they used the models to predict how rapidly forests and other vegetation would have to shift their habitats to survive climate change. The answer: 10 times faster than they did when the glaciers retreated following the last ice age about 10,000 years ago. Challenges of that magnitude, the report concluded, could overwhelm habitats and "well likely result in massive species extinctions."

Troubling signs of change are already visible in the Arctic. *The New York Times* last week carried a widely publicized report on scientists aboard a Russian icebreaker sighting open water at the North Pole in July. The original report said it was the first time ice had melted around the Pole in an estimated 50 million years. But the *Times*' classification, and open water has occurred at the Pole before. Yet other scientists have reported a thinning of the polar ice cap, and in the Canadian Arctic, warmer temperatures are already affecting polar bears and other wildlife.

After years of fruitless talks, federal and provincial ministers will meet in Quebec City next month in an effort to hammer out a Canadian response to climate change. The obstacles to success are considerable. Ottawa will likely offer specific proposals, including possible funding for national programs to reduce fossil-fuel use. But some provinces—most notably Ontario—balk at battling global warming because they fear the economic costs will be too high. "Canadians have to step up the pressure," says Gerry Scott, a spokesman for the Vancouver-based David Suzuki Foundation, "and let politicians know they want action." If the computer projections are right, the alternative could someday turn parts of Canada's northern regions into lifeless wastelands. ■



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## Agreeing to compensation

Victims of Canada's tainted-blood scandal who contracted hepatitis C but are ineligible for the \$1.3-billion federal-proposed compensation package announced two years ago voted to accept a compensation plan from the Canadian Red Cross Society. (The government package excluded those infected before 1986 and after 1990—an estimated 7,000 people.) Of the \$79-million Red Cross deal, \$1.6 million will go to 75 people infected with HIV who until now refused to settle out of court with the Red Cross.

## Job-hunters beware

The Ontario Court of Appeal upheld the firing of a salesman who looked for another job with a rival company without informing his boss. In his ruling, Justice Stephen Binnie noted that Kent Felker of Electro Source Inc., a Toronto-based sales agency for manufacturers of electronic components, "admitted that he did not deserve his full trust and attention as his duties" while pursuing other work. Felker failed to get the other job.

## Another blood ban

Health Canada and Canadian Blood Services banned blood donations from anyone who lived in France for six months or more between 1980 and 1996. The move was spurred by fear that Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human equivalent to mad cow disease, could make its way to Canada through donations. There have been three documented cases of the illness in France and 79 in Britain, for which a Canadian blood ban already exists.

## High-seas sex

A department of national defence survey of the navy suggests that shipboard sex is flourishing, in spite of military rules banning "intermixture." The poll of 826 respondents, conducted last year and misread under an access to information request, was done to determine whether men and women should serve together in the maritime quadrant of the new submarines Canada is acquiring. "After serving on a multi-gender ship" and one respondent, "I know for a fact that men and women become intimate."



## The watery battle off Burnt Church

Two boats from the Burnt Church reserve were sunk and a third damaged during confrontations with fisheries officers on New Brunswick's Miramichi Bay. Fishers hurled rocks and bricks at the officers, injuring several. Later, Miramichi officials called for the resignation of federal Fisheries Minister Herb Dhaliwal for refusing to meet with them to discuss alleged fishing rights.

## A murder trial full of twists and turns

**Fugitive from the law or paranoid power?** These were the choices facing Manitoba Circuit Judge John Proulx when Saskatchewan dentist Alpaas Patel failed to show for the state of her manslaughter trial. Patel, 38, is accused of stabbing her physician husband, Virsinh Patel, in March, 1999, 10 months after their arranged marriage went sour. A jury acquitted her in February of first-degree murder; a mistrial resulted while the jury was considering a second-degree conviction. Prosecutors seemed to try her again on that

charge, but U.S. law forbids double jeopardy, so they then charged her with manslaughter.

But when that trial got under way last week, Patel was not on hand. Initial reports indicated she was at home in Saskatoon on the advice of Canadian counsel. Proulx declared her a fugitive, ordered her arrested, and awarded her \$300,000 bail. But when Patel appeared in court two days later, she testified that her father, Dr. Dev Arora, who is funding her defence as well as her living and travelling expenses, had falsified her mother's name as Alpaas Proulx, at first incidentally, accepted her explanation. "I think she was acting more in a pique of her father."

## Good news in Wild Rose Country

**Thanks to soaring oil and gas revenues,** Albertans have become used to good fiscal news from their government. Last week, that trend continued as Premier Ralph Klein's Tories announced that the 2000-2001 fiscal year would probably feature a budget surplus of more than \$5 billion. Of that, \$4.5 billion will be channelled to paying down the province's \$12.5-billion debt. Audit reports that the province will likely give each taxpayer a \$300 rebate for high energy costs, the government pressed an announcement this week.

COVER

# New Might on the Right

**Emboldened by Stockwell Day, social conservatives are on the march**

By John Geddes in Ottawa

Robin Richardson has divided his adult life between crunching the numbers and preaching the gospel. A former Bay Street bank and brokerage house economist, he turned his analytical skills to probing the evils of government debt

in the 1980s, for both the Fraser Institute, the Vancouver-based right-wing think-tank, and the Canadian Timpani Federation, the rabble-rousing Regina-based lobby group. But Richardson has convictions on more than balancing budgets and cutting taxes. In the early 1980s, after serving as a Toronto MP in Joe Clark's short-lived 1979 Conservative government, he took three years off to study theology at a small Kentucky seminary and then relocated to British Columbia, first as a financial planner in Chilliwack and later as an evangelical pastor in Victoria.

In other words, Richardson is a one-man amalgam of the influences now churning inside the Canadian Alliance, the proudly claims a personal stake in the triumph of conservative economic policy over the past decade. He's both a lapidary Tory and a fundamentalist Christian—two key Alliance constituencies. He knows where the Canadian right has come from and, at 58, he figures he's got one more chance to be part of where it's going. These days, he is plugged into a network of social conservatives, emboldened by Stockwell Day's victory in the first Alliance leadership race, who are trying to fight their way to an even bigger voice in the new party. In some settings, better-known Alliance figures have broken out in nervous sweats, as they are lessened in the Alliance, and those who style themselves as the party's modernists, Richardson is trying to take down a big name—Keith Martin, the econ-

omist at the Vancouver Island riding of Esquimalt/Juan de Fuca. "It's a healthy thing," Richardson says about the skirmish. "In my view, it's about organizational change."

Martin was things differently. He angrily accuses Richardson of running a double campaign, a public public one about economics and a more stingy private one attacking Martin's pro-choice stance on abortion. "Don't say you're running on economic issues, which we agree on, and then slam me behind my back on moral issues," Martin said in an interview. Richardson dismisses his rivals' complaints as merely "posturing acts" or the real substance of the choice local Alliance members will make in the riding's Sept. 16 convention meeting. "I'm currently pro-life," he says, "but that's not going to be the decision issue." Richardson says he is running mainly on his ideas for local job creation and issues like the dangers of big three land-claim settlements.

But he also firely accuses Martin of being disdainful of anti-abortion churchgoers who are active in the Alliance. Citing a news report in which Martin was quoted as saying "some evangelical Christian groups" are behind efforts to oust sitting Alliance MPs, Richardson charges: "He's basically attacking Christians." Martin responds that "as a Roman Catholic who grew up in a Catholic boys' school" he finds that allegation "personally offensive."

Beyond the skirmish, though, Martin warns that the chal-

Protest in Kelowna, B.C., trying to show up the Canadian Alliance as a force for so-called values



## ABORTION REMAINS THE MAIN ISSUE, but social conservatives argue that they stand for much more

large facing him represents a larger threat to the Alliance's election chances. "I totally support the right of anybody to run," he said. "However, there is always a danger of being taken over by special-interest groups." Prime Minister Jean Chrétien left no doubt for weeks that he will portray the Alliance as a party already dominated by "backward, dangerous" social conservatives who want to deny women the right to choose on abortion. In a campaign-style speech in Winnipeg, where Liberal MPs held a caucus meeting in advance of the fall return of Parliament, Chrétien also took aim at Day for telling his own policies for the wealthy. And he referred to the "unholy alliance" after reports that Day had recruited two former Quebec separatists as candidates. Day responded by clearing the high ground. "I think you're seeing a government in a bit of a pinch," he said, dismissing Chrétien's speech as "an old-style political ruse."

Still, some Alliance members say they are worried that someone leading at the riding level could give Clinton more momentum. The usual local rivalries and ambitions are in play, but in at least a few cases these days up-and-downs are something bigger. The so-cons believe that with Day in charge, the drive is right to get serious about shutting up the Alliance as a political base for their values, including staunch opposition to abortion. Others inside the party fear middle-of-the-road Canadians would be the sort Liberals wish to shut out; preserve—will be turned off. "Our challenge is to maintain broad-based support that will represent Canadians generally," said B.C. Alliance MP Val Meredith, who last week defended his own challenger to secure the nomination in her South Surrey/White Rock/Langley riding.

Like Martin, Meredith came under fire over abortion—the feminist issue for many social conservatives. "I don't believe

this abortion should be used for birth control," she said Monday. "But I don't believe a 14- or 15-year-old girl should be made a criminal because she's chosen that means to end a marriage." That sort of answer is not even close to the strict pro-life stand demanded by many up-cons in the Alliance. But some savvy, younger so-con leaders insist they are taking a more measured, strategic approach than the all-or-nothing stance pro-life activists usually adopted in the past. "We're political realists," says Roy Byers, 40, president of the Calgary-based Canada Family Action Coalition. "A lot of sales, new social conservatives recognize we can't form a government on our own. We have to work with others to do that."

Many Alliance insiders view Byers's CFAC as the so-con group to watch—or watch out for. Founded 3½ years ago, it now claims to have close to 10,000 members. Some older groups that share the same ideological turf, such as Focus on the Family and the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, are charities. To keep that status for tax purposes, they are restricted from direct political action. But CFAC is a nonprofit group, and operates freely in the political arena. Officially, it is non-partisan. But Byers, a Protestant minister in Edmonton, took time off from CFAC to organize Fertility for Day, which drew substantial support behind the former Alberta minister in his winning leadership bid. Byers estimates the organization signed up at least 6,500 new party members who voted for Day, about equal to his final margin of victory.

Byers says CFAC is not directly involved in the current riding nomination wars, but the group's rank-and-file members are encouraged to get active locally. Last week, the so-cons won one and lost one. While they failed to dethrone Meredith, they helped save Rob Anders, the toll-free Alliance MP for Calgary West who got Byers's personal endorsement. Anders

## Looking for an image change

Jason Kenney is getting tired of having his politics defined by his social views. As the Canadian Alliance's finance critic, and a former president of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, the Calgary MP worries why his economic opinions rarely get equal billing in the media with his anti-abortion stance and Catholic conservatism. "You can have a lifetime of economic credentials," Kenney sighs, "but as soon as people find out you talk to church on Sunday and oppose abortion on demand, suddenly that defines your political personality."



Not that Kenney—who was chairman of Stockwell Day's leadership campaign and is now widely viewed as Day's closest adviser in the Alliance caucus—has ever hidden his convictions. But these days, Kenney says he is working flat out to try to put to rest the perception that the Alliance is a narrow coalition of white, conservative, western Quebecers. Actively involved in recruiting new Alliance candidates, Kenney vows that the new party will surpass the stereotypes. "We'll have Jewish candidates, Muslim candidates," he says, "candidates from every conceivable ethnic background." And giving his party a new image could be just the thing for changing Kenney's own.

best back a nomination challenge from Jocelyn Bagenet, a Conservative member of the Alberta legislature. Like Meredith, Bagenet faced heated so-con opposition over her abortion stance. "It's a decision between a woman, her God and her doctor," she said in defeat.

Despite the focus on abortion in some nomination battles, CFAC leaders are adamant that their far from single-issue movement. In fact, Brian Rushfield, CFAC's executive director and co-founder with Byers, says the coalition was created explicitly as an alternative to organizations like Campaign Life Coalition that make opposing abortion their prime objective. "We're much broader than that," Rushfield declares. "Pro-life is a small amount of the work that we do. Our focus is on traditional freedoms, religious freedom and democracy."

CFAC fought with other so-cons on the winning side on

at least two skirmishes this year unrelated to abortion. The group joined forces with like-minded organizations, including the anti-feminist lobby group BEAL. Women of Canada, to intervene in an Ontario court case to defend the right of parents to spank their children. A judge ruled in their favor, and against a group that was trying to have spanking outlawed as child abuse. And CFAC boasts its lobbying influence at least some of the backbench Liberal MPs who pursued federal Justice Minister Anne McLellan to drop a plan to change the legal definition of marriage to include same-sex unions. McLellan's move left gay-rights advocates convinced that top Liberals are spooked by the Alliance. "The Liberals caved in to the perception that there would be a backlash," said Kim Vasey, spokesman of Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere. "I certainly think they can see the writing on the wall about the support the Alliance is going to get in the next election."

Expect that election to focus on so-cons' aim in force. Byers says CFAC's model for political action is the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. The federation, founded in 1990, emerged as a tenacious voice in keeping lower taxes, low-spending themes on federal and provincial election agendas.

And between campaigns, its offices in the capitals of all four western provinces and Ottawa keep the pressure on. Byers argues that just as the federation was on the right track when winning deficits finally earned public opinion to the right on fiscal matters, CFAC is positioning itself to take advantage of conditions that are opening for a similar shift on social questions.

Among the key issues that he contends might already have tipped the balance last year's riding by a B.C. judge who struck down the law banning possession of child pornography as a violation of the right to freedom of expression. The Supreme Court of

Kenney (top): Many gay-rights advocates are convinced that top Liberals are spooked by the Alliance as they look to the next election

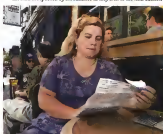


Photo: Kenney (top); Photo: Kenney (top); Photo: Kenney (top)

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## DAY HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOCIAL conservatism needs to broaden its appeal

Canada heard an appeal of the case brought by the federal government last winter, and its decision is pending. Even if the top court restores the law, though, Beyer contends that the lower court ruling joined a line of Canadian cases wounding if widely held values are under attack, especially by activist judges. "People are ready to say, 'Enough is enough,'" he says. "It's very similar to where things were nine or 10 years ago on deficits."

The roots of contemporary Canadian conservatism run deeper, of course, than last year's court controversies or even the post-9/11 deficit battles. The Fraser Institute has been churning out a steady stream of reports urging free trade, lower taxes, privatization and low government since it was founded in 1974. Michael Walker, the institute's executive director, recalls it being dismissed in one early newspaper account as "an intellectual wing of the Ku Klux Klan." These days, much of the Fraser Institute's economic policy outlook is accepted as conventional wisdom, and the institute now has a social affairs centre monitoring right-wing participation on issues from welfare to education. Walker sees no reason not to approach social issues with the same market-based philosophy the institute applies to the economy. "Human action is human action," he says.

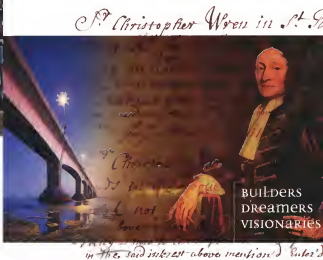
While the Fraser Institute has made Vancouver home base for many Canadian intellectual conservatives, writer and publisher Ted Hyfield has established Edmonton as the centre of right-wing, populist journalism. His *Alberta Report*, launched last year in a national magazine called simply the *Report News-*



Walker, Beyer (below): the Fraser Institute now has a social affairs centre dealing with issues like welfare and education

magazine, was influential in forcing only support for Preston Manning's Reform party. True to his reputation as a subtle worker was for conservative winds, Hyfield shielded his support from Manning to Day for the Alliance leadership race. His son, Lutz, now editor and publisher of the *Report*, says Day's appeal serves the way he bridges economic and social conservatism. "Socialism, for some reason, seems to be the personification of both sides," he says. "They both come very naturally and sincerely to him."

Day's background does lend him undeniable credibility in both of the broad conservative camps. As a former minister in Alberta Premier Ralph Klein's government, he is firmly associated with the no-cutting, government-shrinking economic side. But Day is also a not-rebbed social conservative, a born-again Christian and ontario preacher. He argues that those who believe in the fiscal conservatism of frugal government and lower taxes but think they can



## A classic product of the Bible Belt

Ray Beyer credits the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission with turning him into the prominent conservative activist he is today. Back in the summer of 1997, the federal broadcasting regulator granted a licence for Paybyview pay-per-view television in Canada—on the same day it turned down applications from four would-be religious broadcasters. Beyer, an evangelical pastor from Edmonton, was involved with one of those proposals. "I thought that was truly outrageous of them," he recalls.

But what really surprised him was that church groups seemed willing to take the setback lying down. "It brought into focus



for me," he says, "that there was a organization really informing social conservatives on a grassroots level about what we should

do." So Beyer took a leading role in founding the Canada Family Action Coalition, which now boasts close to 10,000 members—and commands growing respect in Canadian Alliance circles.

Beyer, 40, is a classic product of Alberta's Bible Belt. Born and raised in Lethbridge, he studied to become a minister at Full Gospel Bible Institute in Estevan, Sask. But he vows that CFACT will mature into more than a political arm of evangelical churches. "The initial challenge was to get conservative Catholics and evangelicals to work together," he says. "In recent months, we've done those work with Muslims and Jews, realizing that these are key constituencies." If CFACT succeeds in linking those bridges, it could become a new kind of force on the Canadian right.

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## DAY AND OTHER CHRISTIAN SO-CONS are also reaching out to Jews and Muslims

peacefully co-exist with liberal social views are fooling themselves. "While many politicians have at last grasped fiscal reality, they have not yet awakened to our disintegrating social reality—but they will," Day said in a major speech on his behalf of conservatives during the leadership contest. "The day they do, many of those fiscal-conservative-but-social-liberals will become unrecognizable. And when they do, they will find a ready home in the Canadian Alliance."

In the same key speech, delivered on April 28, Day also decided head-on questions about how his religion relates to his politics. His strategists saw it as an issue he had to try to put to rest, ousting the speech in advance. Day's entire circle even compared it to John B. Kennedy's famous one in

Honour on Sept. 12, 1960, defending the right of a Catholic to run for president. Day could hardly match Kennedy at his eloquent best, but he was understandably impassioned. "As a conservative, I have no aversion of making my religion someone else's law," Day said, but went on to add that he is "opposed to any suggestion that citizens separate themselves from their beliefs in order to participate in the government of their state."

That differs, at least in nuance and arguably much more, from the position Chrétien expressed last week. In an interview with the *Globe and Mail*, Chrétien said he keeps his religion "separate from politics," even though he still considers himself "a good Catholic" in his personal life. "Especially in a multicultural and multireligious population like ours," he elaborated, "the imposition of one group to impose its morality on others, it's always dangerous and you have to be guarded against it." Chrétien suggests that individual politicians must not allow their religious convictions to colour their political judgment. Day proposes more popular control on the possibility of a party imposing religious views. He has vowed that an Alliance government would not alter the law on the most divisive moral issues, including abortion, unless Canadians voted for change in a referendum.

Day has acknowledged that for social conservatives to widen its voter appeal it needs to broaden its base beyond conservative Christians. By advocating sex breaks for religious schools, he has succeeded in impressing at least some Jews and Muslims, appealing directly to groups like the multi-faith Ontario Council for Equality in Education. Beyer says groups like his are similarly reaching out. As a sign of things to come, he points to close co-operation between CFAC and Sikhs on keeping books that introduce the concept of same-sex couples out of a Surrey, B.C., elementary school. Not that Alliance so-cons are inclined to disguise the frankly Christian underpinning of their politics.

"These views are not alien to our culture," declares Richardson. "From my reading of history, most of the Fathers of Confederation were Christians." And with that grand claim to represent ethnic, old values—not the narrow, new threat their opponents see in them—Canadian social conservatives are on the march.

## No holds barred on the Liberal side

Suddenly, everything around federal politics is clearer. After last week's meeting of the Liberal caucus in Winnipeg, the long months of speculation on whether Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is staying or going must surely end. The Chrétien who delivered that scorching

portion of the Liberal coalition is a traditional Catholic constituency? But one senior Liberal tactician said Day's promise to allow a vaguely defined "citizen's initiative" to prompt an abortion referendum was judged to be a fair target—as long as there was no hint of a direct attack on Day's evangelical faith.

But less controversial elements are likely to grow into the main themes in a Liberal election platform now taking shape. Michael Macartin, the official Liberal pollster, told the party's MPs in Winnipeg to focus on issues like reforming health care and cutting taxes. "They need issues that transcend regionalism and capture the national imagination," Macartin told Macklin. Perhaps the best news for Liberals is that a booming economy promises to generate plenty of

revenue to fund tax cuts, health spending and other new initiatives. Last week, Statistics Canada reported that gross domestic product grew by a powerful 4.7 per cent annually in the year's second quarter—a timely reminder that good times are usually worth more to a government going to the polls than good strategy I.G.



Chrétien delivering a blistering attack on Day and the Alliance

attack on Canadian Alliance Leader Stockwell Day was not a politician getting ready to retire. And the rules Chrétien plans to discuss in battling Day become clear, too: no holds barred. Some Liberals had privately predicted that Chrétien would stick to core policy themes like health care and taxes. But his campaign-style speech in Winnipeg didn't shy away from more combustible issues—including abortion. Mocking Day's favorite image of the Alliance as a "freedom train," Chrétien said, "Opponents of a woman's freedom to choose have a seat on the freedom train. We Liberals believe in a woman's right to choose."

Alliance strategists were taken by surprise. "My understanding from my Liberal contacts was that they thought it was just the dangers to poke around in that very sensitive area," said Calgary Southern MP Jason Kenney, one of Day's closest advisers. "After all, a substantial



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With Anne Kerr on Toronto

# Pushing the Pendulum

By Claire Hoy

## Everyone has memories.

One of my best is of my late grandmother Maie Hoy standing during the service at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Portcar, Ont., and politely but firmly disputing a theological point made by the presiding minister.

This was an uncommon, and often meant the service would last three hours or more. While I would have preferred to be gazing in the St. Lawrence River or enjoying the view of 1812 in old Fort Wellington, those Sunday mornings served as my practical introduction to the art of debate and taught me that pronouncements from authorities, in the pulpit or elsewhere, are not infallible. The only exception, of course, was God's word, although there, too, various interpretations of what He actually said often led to prolonged debates. My grandmother, of United Empire Loyalist stock, raised 10 children and was fiercely protective of both her family and her faith. She was not stereotypical, dutiful, compliant woman of the time. She believed that "if you have something to say, say it," and that the Ten Commandments were not written by a theist. "In her mind, they meant what they said."

In my mind, too, which I suppose is what makes me a social conservative. But to say so these days risks incurring the wrath of the secular elite. Why has that happened? Why has a business wrecked to love family above self, to believe in God, to believe that life itself matters more than transitory materialism? How did those who adhere to those traditional beliefs get painted as narrow? Many people think it's a common consensus on these issues, but it is not.

An Angus Reid/Globe and Mail/CTV poll of 1,500 Canadian adults in April found that 86 per cent of respondents said they believe in God, 67 per cent said their religious faith is very important to their day-to-day lives, and 60 per cent said the Bible is the inspired word of God. Yet despite this overwhelming confession of faith among Canadians, people who openly espouse faith-based views are routinely marginalized. To be a social conservative is to be labelled intolerant by the self-declared champions of tolerance, many of whom are the least tolerant people I know. Having, assumed the air of detachment, their notion of tolerance often is to tolerate only what they personally find acceptable. For everything else, there's an assumed opposition, even intolerance.

The Bible forms the foundation of our system of justice

and morality, but concerned effort by secularists have made such touchstones not only unfashionable to repeat, but in some cases illegal to pursue. The notions of those who would impose their "liberal" views on society is not simply that the rest of us recognize the existence of other perspectives and lifestyles—which is fair enough—but that we applaud them or suffer direct consequences if we don't.

This confuses acceptance and agreement. They are not the same thing. I accept the very fact, for example, that every few minutes an unborn baby is aborted, but I do not agree with it. I even accept the notion that there will always be a few cases where abortion is a legitimate medical option, but I don't agree there are more than 100,000 cases a year where it is legitimate.

I accept that our elected and unelected Supreme Court judges—and other judges, too—are showing their positions by "stealing in" their personal biases in many cases involving controversial social issues, particularly in the area of homosexual rights. Yes, a small percentage of Canadians are practicing homosexuals, and nobody has the right to either harm them or advocate harming them. But I don't agree that homosexual relationships are the model equivalent of heterosexual relationships. Not, in terms, do the federal Liberals, since Justice Minister Anne McLellan recently enshrined in law the fact that marriage is a heterosexual relationship between a man and a woman.

While I accept the notion that many Canadians have different points of view on social issues, I do not agree that these issues cannot ever be debated without insulting people with charges of homophobia or sexism or dragging them before one-sided human-rights courts whose idea of a fair trial is to declare the party guilty first, then force him to show why he is not guilty as charged.

Pendulums swing, however. In the mid-1980s, when Brian Mulroney's Conservative government began auditing provincial government spending, the exception of cackling from the two-and-a-half-centers was deafening. Now, even the federal NDP is scurrying from the tyranny of balanced budgets. The fight for fiscal conservatism has been won, at least for now. On the social side, alas, it's been the opposite. Twenty years ago, it was common to debate issues such as abortion and homosexuality. Today, it's seen as questioning the Holy Grail. Yet opinion polls show considerable differences in public atti-



Hoy is first of her generation to be considered liberal.

## WITH THE FIGHT for fiscal conservatism won, social conservatives want to end the era of the secular elites

tudes over social issues. For years, however, non-liberal attitudes have been silenced by special-interest groups who have enjoyed the ear of the courts, the government and the media.

Enter Canadian Alliance Leader Stockwell Day, a man who has not been covered into donning a cloak of political correctness in the past night of professional risk-taking suggesting that collective fingers and turning their world-weary brows at him. Common wisdom decrees that anybody who even thinks about these issues, let alone risks about them, can never be elected, particularly in Ontario—at least, Conservative candidates if ever there was one. Day's positions have led to numerous personal attacks, including the controversial Montreal cover that asked the absurd question "How scary?" judging by his performance in the polls so far, not very.

Critics accuse Day of being a religious zealot—he is, after all, an evangelical Christian—who, like all religious people, wants to impose his own religion on everybody. Day told the main interview that as a social conservative in Alberta, "I didn't pass a law making Bible-teaching mandatory in downtown Edmonton." He made the Bible, and is guided by it. Whether you do or not is a of no concern to him.

What he is concerned about, however, is how Canadians feel about issues. He has suggested referendums on abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment. Imagine asking most Canadians if they are comfortable with the fact that Canada has no criminal law governing abortion? Are pro-choice

happy with the fact that, under this circumstance, a fetus can be aborted at the very late stage of seven or eight months? Do Canadians really oppose capital punishment for certain crimes? When were they ever asked?

Day wants to ask them, a sharp break from our tradition of leaving it up to the political, media, academic, political and social elites to tell us what is best for our souls. What is scary about that? I suspect that some of the positions I hold would lose in a referendum. But I'd rather have been asked and lost than have never been asked at all.

A recent Globe and Mail story about the enlightening over Alliance nomination touched on the B.C. riding of Nanaimo-Alberni, where sitting MP Bill Gibbons lost the nomination (and is appealing) to local shopkeeper James Lunney. Bidding president Lester Melman says Gibbons lost when "a bunch of church people" voted for Lunney. The Globe story says Lunney "admitted" he recruited 50 new party members from his church. Why do they expect that Lunney "admitted" that? Is it against the rules? Are church people not entitled to take part in the democratic process? Well, with the emergence of the Alliance, we need to it. And it's not just church people, it's all those Canadians who have been frustrated for years by feelings of powerlessness as they watched the class tell them what to do and what to believe.

My grandmother would have loved it. It's looking forward to it myself. ■



*Prosecutors on the streets of Jakarta: Suharto (below): money, power and corruption*

immediately pay fine, the country may explode—and separatists will use the ensuing violence to advance their drive for outright independence. "The trial is symbolically important for Indonesians," said Jakarta-based analyst Adam Schwartz. "Both for the new government and its political development."

Suharto was driven from power in May 1998, by thousands of protesting students. Now, he is charged with hoarding nearly \$100 million in state funds through seven charitable foundations he headed. Government investigators believe the money may represent a small part of an enormous fund in which Suharto stashed two per cent of the country's income-tax revenue and a percentage of the civil service and military payroll into his own pockets. If found guilty, he faces from 20 years to life in prison. But the millions of people who watched coverage of the court case on television were left hanging when the now-white-haired and frail Suharto failed to appear.

Only a few years ago, Suharto was welcomed in capitals around the world—at least by governments. (It was Suharto's presence at a meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation countries in Vancouver in November, 1997, that triggered human-rights demonstrations and the infamous pepper-spray incident.) Now, he spends his days at his sprawling bungalow in Jakarta, among other things watching nature shows on a wide-screen television. Suharto is said to have suffered two strokes since his downfall. His are children, worried that news reports of his alleged crimes will trigger yet another strike, hide newspapers from him. His lawyers say he suffers from arthritis and his speech difficulties. As a result, they said the court he was unable to attend the hearings. Suharto appeared to have accepted trial last year, when then-President B. J. Habibie dropped the investigation into his former mentor. But Abdurrahman Wahid, who in 1999 became the country's first democratically elected leader, announced the case as part of his pledge to clean up corruption. Even so, in an attempt to appease the military, which remains pro-Suharto, Wahid has promised to pardon the former president if he is convicted.

Indonesians also hoped that the case would shed light on Suharto's fortune, estimated to be worth \$67 billion. Suharto claims to be worth far less. "I don't have one cent of savings abroad," he said in a recent television interview. "I'm worth less hundreds of billions of dollars." The exact size of Suharto's fortune may never be known. Stephen Vickers, the Jakarta-

based managing director of PricewaterhouseCoopers Investigations Asia Ltd., has traced the assets of former Philippines president Ferdinand Marcos and said it would be extremely difficult to now trace Suharto's wealth. "Time has moved on," said Vickers. "Assets have been dispersed in many ways."

Even if the ultimately does appear for trial, Suharto may be found innocent. Itum Mardiana, president of the Jakarta-based Indonesian Corruption Watch, said he suspects the former president's family has bribed the judges. Mardiana also claims the government deliberately assigned the trial to an obscure court in South Jakarta, whose reputation is substandard even for Indonesia—where, according to Mardiana, the vast majority of legal officials are on the take. Said Mardiana: "The judges will set Suharto free."

By extension, President Wahid's administration is also on trial. And if he later pardoned Suharto, it would be a slap in the face for the country's legal system. But there is little evidence to show that Wahid has been able to root in rampant fraud. So far this year, the government has issued 30,000 cases of graft totaling \$1.6 billion.

**Opposition politicians** claim the war on corruption has been hindered by Wahid's frail health, including the fact that he is nearly blind. Many opposition MPs are becoming impatient. "We have to make sure he does not drift away from what we expect," said Alim Lue, a member of the country's legislature. "If he does, we will bring him down."

Unless the rule of law is firmly established, some analysts fear separatists will seize on the growing chaos to help achieve their goals.

Even as East Timor last week celebrated an first year of autonomy after nearly 30 years of repression, other parts of Indonesia were eyeing the possibility of separation. A resolution passed in June in the eastern province of Irian Jaya called for independence from Jakarta. Separatist movements are also growing on the Sulawesi and Molucca islands. Most of the recent separatist violence has been centered in the Moluccas, where 3,000 people have died this year in clashes between Roman Catholics and Muslims. Christian leaders have asked the United Nations to intervene; however, Wahid, fearing the possibility of another post-Indonesian territory, has flatly rejected that option. But if Suharto escapes trial, many would insist—and finally those the blind might agree.

*With Dewi Djajal in Jakarta*

# World Justice Delayed

By Tom Fennell

The five rebel judges waited anxiously in tall chairs behind a long table. But former Indonesian president Suharto, who ruled his country like a feudal emperor for 32 years, failed to show up for his trial in Jakarta, disappointing hundreds of protesters chanting "Hang Suharto" outside the courthouse. Suharto, 79, whose lawyers claim he is too ill to stand trial, amassed a fortune of almost \$67 billion and is now charged with embezzling nearly \$800 million from seven charities during his rule. But the trial is about more than Suharto's riches. Unless the government successfully prosecutes the former strongman, some analysts say the nation will be unable to rid itself of his legacy of corruption and brutality—and will drift into anarchy. "Suharto is the door to a world of corrupt people," student leader Wito Gede told *Maclean's*. "I want all those people on trial."

Gede will have to wait a little longer for justice. Chief Judge

Lala Muryan adjourned the proceedings until Sept. 14, while a team of doctors compile a report on the former dictator's health. Prosecution still vowed to bring him to trial, but his absence in court only fueled public perception in the nation of 197 million people that the legal system is thoroughly corrupt. Disillusioned, the public has increasingly taken the law into its own hands. A rash of vigilantes has hit city streets; mobs now not only beat thieves to death, but lynch the victims on fire. In Jakarta alone this year, there have been more than 100 lynchings.

Religious and political violence has also become rampant, claiming more than 3,000 lives since January, 1998. Separatist leaders on Indonesian islands Moluccas, Sulawesi and Irian Jaya islands, which comprise about one-third of the country's land mass, are demanding independence. Ironically, the start of Suharto's trial fell on Aug. 31, just as the former Indonesian province of East Timor celebrated the first anniversary of its autonomy. Analysts fear that if Suharto is



AP/WIDEWORLD



*A lagoon on Fiji: anger and beauty*

# Trouble in paradise

A Canadian flees Toronto for Fiji only to see the country engulfed in racial tensions

*In the popular mind, Fiji is the stuff of fantasy: beaches, blue seas and gentle breezes. One winter's day in 1988, Toronto native Peter May could no longer resist the South Pacific archipelago's call. He soon found himself living, much as a native would, as a village by the sea. But the idyll did not last: as May 19, May was caught up in the racial violence that erupted when Fijian rebel leader George Speight took over Parliament and held the country's Indo-Fijian prime minister hostage. In the following report, May, 54, who has temporarily returned to Toronto, describes his journey and how his island paradise was shattered.*

The first thing strangers ask me is how I ended up living in Fiji. My answer is almost a cliché—the one about the guy who worked in his life in the city for a tropical paradise of palm-fringed beaches. I was that guy. My decision to leave in February, 1988, came while driving down Toronto's Don Valley Parkway on a cold, dusty morning, one of those winter days when a veer of brown slush defies the windshield wipers and obscures the traffic ahead. I was 42, overweight and recently divorced. But nobody believed I would really quit my job as news director at CFGM radio, where I had worked for

15 years. "You're the point on the wall here," said a female co-worker. "You'll die here."

My employer diagnosed my condition as burnout, my family said it was a reaction to my divorce; friends claimed I was going through a midlife crisis. But I was simply fed up, and set out with a pocketful of traveller's cheques for the fabled islands of Fiji.

In 1874, Calakoba, Fiji's paramount chief, ceded the archipelago to Queen Victoria in return for naval protection against American freebooters who were trading firearms for whatever the natives had to offer. When he signed

the deed of cession, Calakoba believed the islands would be returned to chiefly rule when Fiji moved to independence, a contention that would be a source of future trouble as the ethnic makeup of the country changed. Because the British came to the islands by treaty, they had no way of forcing Fijians to work. Personal property was unknown and Fijians had no interest in money. As a result, the British imported labourers from India to develop sugarcane plantations. Their children became the first Indo-Fijians by 1970, when Fiji became independent, native Fijians made up only half of the population. The country adopted a constitution guaranteeing multi-racial government—so the champions of Fijian nationalists.

I knew little of this history when I stepped off the inter-island ferry in the small seaside settlement of Savusavu on Vanua Levu, Fiji's second-largest island. The town had a few hundred residents

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## After the coup attempt, ethnic tensions continue to divide the country



Coup leader Spigite (right) and bodyguard, power player

and a single arrest of shoplifting a spectacular evening show. Within hours, the Radu Sotomaru, the wife of the parliament chief of Sotomaru, declared that I was her blood relative because, she claimed, I was related to an American whaler named Susan May who arrived on the island in the 1850s. As a result, I was treated as family. Two years later, I met Pito, a beautiful 33-year-old with dark hair rambling down to her waist. We

settled down in an old planter's house overlooking a lagoon. It was just a 10-minute stroll down the sand to a native village where fresh fish, crabs and lobsters were always available.

The next few years were like an endless summer, exceeding all of my childhood dreams. I watched whales frolic beyond the surf and often drink the local mottone, lava, by lantern light with the village men while listening to stories of fishing and hunting wild boars with spears. I learned what it was to live where measured time does not exist and life follows the rhythm of the moon and tides.

Thanked for just one thing: someone I could converse with easily in English about the outside world. So I was glad to meet a man named "Bill," who had served first more than 20 years in the British army (I never paid much attention to his last name of anyone else's, for in that tiny community one name was enough). We often talked about his world travels, but Bill also gave me a sense of the ethnic tensions that simmered under the surface in Fiji. Bill feared that the Fijians would, like the Hawaiians, lose their language and culture. He tolerated the Indo-Fijians but he was adamant in his mind that Fiji must be ruled by Fijians.

My life as a semi-exile ended in

1993 when I finally went to work teaching broadcasting to local journalists. In 1997, I moved to the capital city of Suva, on the main island of Viti Levu. On the surface, relations between native and Indo-Fijians seemed peaceful. But the election on May 19, 1998, of the People's Coalition government, led by Mahendra Chaudhry, Fiji's first Indo-Fijian prime minister, changed that.

Many Fijian nationalists could not accept Chaudhry's victory. The mob boiled over last spring, when George Speight and a group of armed rebels from the Fijian Army's Commando-Infantry Warlike Unit entered the parliament buildings on the first anniversary of Chaudhry's election. They took the Prime Minister hostage, along with his cabinet and all but a few of the elected members of the People's Coalition government. I soon learned Speight was a bankrupt businessman who had headed the government-owned Fiji Hardwood Corp until he was let go during a reorganization of the company led by Chaudhry.

When he addressed the nation that afternoon, Speight bragged that he represented the will of indigenous Fijians and would banish forever the threat of Indo-Fijian dominance. As word of the coup spread, a gang of

thugs began smashing windows in the heart of the Indian aparth district. On the second day of the coup, some government MPs assigned in retreat for their freedom Speight also tried to force the Prime Minister to step down. A gun was put to Chaudhry's head, but he refused to resign.

As the crisis continued, a rebel leader said reporters that Speight had only been invited to join the coup 48 hours before it took place. The minister was actually a retired officer named Bhims Liginia, who remained inside Parliament with the hostages. I then received a phone call from a friend with startling news. She wanted to know why I had not tried to contact Liginia. When I protested that I did not know the man, she shocked me. "You do," she said. "He's your old friend Bill."

When the hostages, including Chaudhry, were finally set free on July 13, the army, which had declared martial law, granted Speight and Liginia amnesty. A few days later, however, the mob were arrested on new charges. During negotiations with their supporters, the army promised that any new constitution would guarantee that the offices of president and prime minister could be held only by native Fijians. And the last time I saw Liginia was on television on July 17. He was sitting in a car with a bandage covering a large gash on his forehead, smiling. Did he believe he had succeeded in keeping Fiji for Fijians—something he had promised to me years earlier?

Today Fiji remains divided and its tourist-dependent economy is in ruins. Even so, Liginia and Speight may soon be released. The Great Council of Chiefs, the last body holding any true authority in the nation, is opposed to considering universal amnesty for all the rebels. Now I intend to return to my shattered paradise. Perhaps I'll even get a chance to talk to my old friend Bill, and ask him: was it worth it? ■

## An alleged murder plot

Egyptian tycoon Mohamed Al Fayed, who owns London's famous Harrods department store, filed a lawsuit against a half-dozen U.S. security agencies, including the CIA, Al Fayed trying to obtain documents that he claims prove his son, Dodi, and Diana, the Princess of Wales, were murdered in a car crash in Paris three years ago. The 67-year-old alleges that death was the result of a government conspiracy to keep his son, a Muslim, from marrying Diana. Al Fayed's allegations came in as renewed his demands for British citizenship, something he has been repeatedly denied.

## Life sentence for a skinhead

A German court convicted three neo-Nazis of beating African immigrant Alberto Adriano to death, and handed down tough sentences in an attempt to halt the rise of racially motivated attacks. Enrico Hilgert, 24, who kicked Adriano 10 times in the head before leaving him to die in a park in the eastern German city of Dessau on June 11, was sentenced to life imprisonment. Second, both 16, were given nine years.

## ETA claims responsibility

In a surprise announcement, the Basque separatist group ETA claimed responsibility for murdering four people in a series of terrorist attacks between May and July. The group's push for an independent state in northern Spain has escalated since it ended a unilateral ceasefire last December. ETA, whose Euzkera-language acronym stands for Basque Homeland and Liberty, is blamed for 800 deaths since 1968.

## Military aid for Colombia

U.S. President Bill Clinton, ignoring a bomb scare, travelled to Cartagena, Colombia, where he offered the government a \$1.3-billion (U.S.) military aid package to help the country wage war against the cocaine cartels that control much of the country. Critics said the aid package, which includes 60 helicopters, could lead to a war between Americans and Colombian drug traffickers.

## A fire in the Moscow sky

Russia's Ostankino communications tower, at 548 m the second-largest freestanding structure in the world, was near collapse after a fire that lasted for 20 hours. The blaze burned through the top of the tower, which houses radio, communications facilities and restaurants. It claimed four lives and blacked out most of Moscow's television channels, triggering a national debate over Russia's crumbling infrastructure.

The fire in the tower, which was built in 1967 and is 13 m shorter than Toronto's CN Tower, was just the latest sign of decay. It struck as Russians were still mourning the loss of 118 sailors who died in an explosion on the nuclear submarine Kursk on Aug. 12 in the Barents Sea. After its own rescue attempts failed, the Russian navy had to appeal to the West for help because even its military budget had left it without equipment capable of rescuing the sailors. Russian



The Ostankino tower in flames declines

President Vladimir Putin, criticized for not responding quickly enough to the Kursk disaster, and the fire in the Ostankino tower symbolized Russia's decline. "This emergency highlights the condition of the entire nation," he said. "Only economic development will allow us to avoid such disasters in the future."

## Vietnam frees a Canadian grandmother

Tran Thi Cam, a 74-year-old Toronto grandmother who was arrested in 1996 with her daughter, Nguyen Thi Hien, at Hanoi's Noi Bai airport for possessing 54 kg of heroin, has been freed. The pair were found guilty of trafficking. Nguyen received the death penalty and was executed by a firing squad on April 26, while Tran was sentenced to life in prison. Nguyen's body was quietly returned to the family in Hanoi on Aug. 19. Tran and 10,000 other prisoners were released on Sept. 1 as part of an amnesty celebrating Vietnam's independence.

## 'You have flames'

A chilling exchange between crew and air traffic controllers, contained in a report issued by French Air Accidents Investigation Bureau, provided a graphic account of the final moments of Air France Flight 590. "Concèdez-moi... 4990, you have flames. You have flames behind you," the tower told the aircraft. Moments later, when discussing the possibility of an emergency landing at another nearby airport, the pilot said: "Too late." The July 25 accident occurred just minutes after takeoff from Paris's Charles de Gaulle airport and killed all 109 people onboard and four on the ground when the plane crashed into a bank. The report also said several pilots found on the runway may have caused the jet to be blown with the resulting debris putting the surrounding plane's fuel tanks and triggering the fire.

# The Blue Jay Play

By Katherine Mackinnon

When Ted Rogers was a boy, attending exclusive Upper Canada College in Toronto's wealthy Forest Hill neighborhood, he didn't play baseball. As an infant, he'd lost the sight in one eye and had no depth perception. But he was a fan and he rooted for the city's minor-league team, the Maple Leafs. The club was owned by Jack Kent Cooke, a local millionaire who in the 1940s also owned radio stations and magazines. Today, as it happens, Rogers lives in the Forest Hill house that Cooke once called home. His cable and wireless communications conglomerate, Rogers Communications Inc., owns radio stations and magazines. And last week, Rogers, now 67, bought the Toronto Blue Jays baseball club. Cooke eventually went on to become a high-powered

The Blue Jays deal, one of the summer's worst-kept secrets, gives Rogers Communications an 80-per-cent interest in the ball club—a money-losing franchise that has been on a downward slide since 1993, when Joe Carter hit his unforgettable, take-it-all-home run and skipped around the bases, clinching the Jays' second straight World Series title. After that euphoria, the team, along with the other major-league clubs, was confronted with the players' strike and the subsequent cancellation of the 1994 World Series. Since then, the Jays have struggled with astronomical players' salaries in ever-more-expensive U.S. dollars, slack enthusiasm from the fans and benign neglect from its Belgium-based owners, beer-maker Inbevco SA, which acquired the Jays when it bought Labatt Breweries of Canada in 1995. Last year, the team lost about \$8 million, which wasn't too dreadful compared with

1993's losses of more than \$40 million. For that, Rogers is paying \$112 million (U.S.)—about \$165 million—in stock and cash.

The payroll factor is a double-edged sword. The claim that pay the highest salaries have the highest costs, but in general they have also ended up as winning teams—and it's all to do with tickets and the potentially lucrative broadcast rights for a winner. In 1993, the Jays' payroll was among the highest in the league, at \$65 million. This year, at \$71 million, it was mid-

In the name of 'convergence,' Ted Rogers buys Toronto's ailing baseball team

Jays achieve plenty of corporate cross-pollination

major-league sports figure in the United States, owning the NHL's Los Angeles Kings, the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers and the NFL's Washington Redskins. Rogers, too, wants to own more sports teams. "This city deserves an NFL team," he told reporters last week. He focused speculation by saying hockey's Maple Leafs and basketball's Raptors—on even the Jays' home, the SkyDome—but he indicated he is asking other franchisees. Yet that's where the similarities stop: between a 21st-century communications baron and an old-style sport mogul. Cooke, who died in 1997, didn't hold on to his media assets and he left Canada to develop his sports empire south of the border. Rogers fully intends to remain in communications and in Canada. His vision encompasses a massive sports-entertainment-communications empire with plenty of cross-pollination—the business and convergence and bundling—among the parts.

range between the lowly Minnesota Twins' \$23 million and the lordly New York Yankees' \$136 million. Neither Rogers nor Don Geidrey, the Jays' new president and chief executive, would say how much new money they'll pump into the team, but they did vow to bring back in glory days. "We didn't buy the team to sleep on replacing the light bulbs," Rogers said.

It's not quite right to say Rogers' ambition is to turn the Blue Jays into a profit-making machine, nor that he'd be unhappy about that. What does interest him is the franchise will contribute to the other Rogers businesses—which include cable service, wireless phones, television and radio stations, video rentals. Web sites and magazines (among them *MoneyWeek*). Rogers, which delivers cable TV to 2.2 million homes, wants to put baseball up as one of its options. In the long run, the Jays provide the content for the Rogers pipelines. But Rogers isn't thinking only about the obvious conver-



Geidrey, Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman, Rogers and Chapin celebrate a sports-entertainment-communications empire

sions. "Do you know that on your wireless phone you're going to be able to have in a few years the Blue Jays, right here," he said, holding up a cellphone. "You're going to be able to see them on video." He's also keen on the idea of selling Jays tickets along with, say, cable TV and wireless services—bundling—"all on one bill."

Rogers freely admits he is taking a page from foreign media conglomerates, which are becoming more and more involved in sports. "Those companies can help sports and sports can help those companies," he said. He offered as an example News Corp., Rupert Murdoch's media giant, which owns the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team and the Fox network. Time Warner Inc., where Rogers' friend Ted Turner serves as chairman, is another model, owning baseball's Atlanta Braves and basketball's Atlanta Hawks, and broadcasting games on cable networks. Turner originally established Wild Dorney Co., owner of the ABC network, holds Anaheim, Calif.'s Angels baseball team and the Mighty Ducks of hockey. "It seems to me that if you are in our business to be successful," said Rogers. "It's part of the convergence-communications group of activities, for Dorney or Murdoch or ourselves."

Rogers has one important hurdle to jump before his plan is complete: he wants to gain control of the specialty channel Sportsnet. Last March, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission ordered the CTV network to sell its 40-per-cent share in Sportsnet because it had acquired the competing TSN sports channel. Around the same time, Rogers' main rival, Montreal-based BCE Inc., took over CTV. BCE has a

year to untold the holding in Sportsnet, and Rogers, which already holds 30 per cent, has the first right of refusal to buy it.

Rogers says his company "deserves" to own the channel, and Inbevco is taking its time. But buying it is not the issue. The CRTC focuses on such concentration of TV control. "We have a problem having a cable carrier owning a specialty channel," said CRTC spokesman Denis Gervais. To get Sportsnet, Rogers will comply with whatever the CRTC wants. "As far as I'm concerned," he said, "they can write the details and I'll sign the cheque. I want to make this happen."

Rogers told *Maclean's* he wanted to buy the Jays "for years." But it was only last April that he got serious, and contacted Albert Guss, a Rogers director. "Ted called me one afternoon and said, 'Do you know anyone involved in the ownership?'" Guss occurred. Guss

phoned his friend Alvin Chapin, a New York City lawyer who sits on Interbrew's board and was the Jays' chairman, and Chapin flew to Toronto. A board meeting was convened at Rogers' house, beside his indoor pool, and the process was launched. They thought they'd have a physical deal the same month, maybe in May. "We were naive," Guss said. "Like in any transaction, there were a few hiccups."

There could be more hiccups before Rogers has the conglomerate he's seeking. He will have to prove analysts say he's getting overmatched and off focus. The CRTC may throw up roadblocks. But Rogers, like Jack Kent Cooke in another time, insists he has found a way to make big-league sports pay off. ■

## FLYING LOW

Facts about the Toronto Blue Jays:

Estimated 1999 loss: \$8 million

1993 attendance: 4.1 million

1995 attendance: 2.2 million

2000 attendance so far: down 15% from '99

Total payroll this season: \$71 million

New York Yankees payroll: \$136 million

# The troubled state of sport

Like the Blue Jays, many Canadian pro teams have been losing money—and fans

By D'Arcy Jenish

The **Edmonton Oilers** do not open the regular hockey season until Oct. 6, but general manager Kevin Lowe and some of his coaches are already putting in long days on the road. Last week, they joined other team officials on promotional tour of Fort McMurray, Cold Lake and other northern Alberta communities. And there will be more such occasions in the coming weeks, some as far afield as Saskatoon and Fort St. John, B.C. At each stop, the Oilers encourage fans to visit a mall, meet the players, socialize with business leaders and sell their product. "People in these communities think nothing of driving 250 km in 40 below weather to see a game," says Bill Tiele, the Oilers' vice-president of public relations. "This would not occur in any other country on earth."

Maybe so, but even diehard fan support is not enough to ensure a healthy bottom line. The Oilers have struggled to break even while the other Canadian-based NHL teams, except the Toronto Maple Leafs, are losing money, largely because of escalating salaries and, oh, officials say, high taxes. Hockey isn't the only sport hurting: as Ted Rogers' acquisition of the unprofitable Toronto Blue Jays baseball team highlighted last week. In Montreal, where touring giant Molson Inc. has put the faltering Canadiens up for sale, baseball's Expos are winning up losses on the field and the balance sheet. The Vancouver Grizzlies of the National Basketball Association lost \$30 million last year, and expect more red this season. Meanwhile, the Toronto Raptors, Canada's other NBA



The Maple Leafs and Canadiens do battle: escalating salaries and high taxes

team and corporate sibling of the Leafs, finished their season with 19 losses in the final 20 games and an undisciplined profit. "We're doing great," says Tim Anselmi, senior vice-president of

Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd., which controls the Leafs, the Raptors and the Air Canada Centre where they play. "We're focused on going up."

Hockey executives say they face a common problem: whether they operate in big markets—as do the Leafs, Canadiens and Vancouver Canucks—or smaller ones—in the case of the Oilers, Calgary Flames and Ottawa Senators. Player salaries, the largest single expense, have risen rapidly over the past decade due to free agency, and they are paid in U.S. dollars. But the majority of team revenues—derived through ticket sales as opposed to television rights—are earned in Canadian dollars. "The currency differential," says Canucks president Bruce Burke, "is having a catastrophic effect."

There are other built-in disadvantages to being in Canada, he adds. Municipal taxes—about \$3 million annually in the case of the Canucks, \$11 million for

## HOT TICKETS?

Price per seat, including taxes

Calgary Flames	\$18.75-\$123
Montreal Canadiens	\$17.25-\$135
Ottawa Senators	\$19-\$145
Edmonton Oilers	\$22-\$110
Vancouver Canucks	\$26.75-\$118
Toronto Maple Leafs	\$36-\$325
Toronto Blue Jays	\$7-\$42
Montreal Expos	\$11-\$36
Toronto Raptors	\$20-\$300

Vancouver Grizzlies not yet set for 2000



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"When only 5,000 come to the park some nights," the Expos' chief says, "it doesn't bode well."

the Canadiens—are much higher than they are south of the border. Canadiens president Pierre Boivin, who has lobbied for change, says the 26 U.S.-based NHL teams are paying a combined \$5.5 million (Cdn.) in local taxes this year. "We're getting whacked over the head," says Boivin. "American governments understand the benefits of pro sport. It's very unfair."

Meanwhile, federal and provincial governments have been reluctant to provide financial assistance—except Ottawa's \$20-million tax-sink package, which was announced and withdrawn within the space of three days last January after an enormous public backlash. Team executives also say their organizations have had to finance new arenas—Vancouver's GM Place cost \$165 million, Montreal's Molson Centre \$270 million and Toronto's Air Canada Centre \$265 million—whereas



Rapports versus Canadiens: attendance is crucial

Flames have gone to their communities with ultimata—season-tickets sales had to increase or the franchise would move south of the border. After Ottawa's financial-aid package was withdrawn, Senators majority owner Rod Bryden launched a 21-day campaign. By day 18, finished met Bryden's targets, bringing the team up to the league average of 12,500 season tickets.

The Flames adopted a similar strategy in mid-April after finishing the regular season without making the playoffs for the fourth straight year. Harley Hotchkiss, part of the Calgary team's five-member ownership group, revealed that the Flames could lose between \$58 million and \$72 million over the next four years. Season-tickets also had dipped to 9,000 last year, and the Flames set a deadline of selling 16,000 by June 30, a goal which has been exceeded. The club has asked the city to lower or forgo \$750,000 annually in fees for the Calgary Saddledome, where the Flames play home games. And it is in discussion with the province about getting a share of lottery revenues generated by wagers on NHL games.

The Canucks, meanwhile, are announcing losses of \$30 million in the coming season, says Burke. They have avoided ultimatums, but have a season-ticket campaign under way and hope to start with 8,500 sold. The Canucks had

just 6,000 season-tickets sold last year, down from 12,000 in 1999-2000. The team's owner, Seattle businessman John McCaw, has instructed his staff to make hockey work financially in Vancouver, Burke says, but profitability is still several years off.

The Canadiens also have an American owner, Chicago billionaire Michael Haskley, who announced a deal to buy the team from McCaw in January for \$231 million. Haskley has told Vancouver he wants to keep the team in their city, but

has stipulated that attendance—just over 13,000 last season, or 27th in the 29-team NHL—must improve. He has reportedly renegotiated the team lease at GM Place, converting a 15-year agreement into five years guaranteed, followed by two five-year options. After finalizing the deal for the years in May, he told reporters "I don't run my business to lose \$25 million a year forever."

If there is one Canadian professional franchise whose departure appears imminent, it is the Expos. The team has been out of playoff contention since last June. Attendance has averaged just 12,000, though that is up from last year's 9,500, the lowest figure in major-league baseball. The Expos are also a rarity in pro sport—a team without any television coverage. Controlling shareholder Jeffrey Loria, a New York City art dealer who owns 35 per cent and is trying to buy out the 13 minority partners, refused to sell TV rights because the Canadian networks offered too little money. As well, plans for a new ballpark to replace the decaying Olympic Stadium have been shelved, at least until the ownership is sorted out. "I am over the optimism," Loria told *Maclean's*, "but when only 5,000 or 6,000 people come to the park some nights, it doesn't bode well." Empty seats, mounting losses and an uncertain future—unfortunately, that has become an all-too-familiar story in Canadian pro sports. ■



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# A bubble set to burst

The dean of value investors sees no good value at the moment

*Sir John Templeton, the founder of the Templeton family of mutual funds, was one of the first fund managers to recognize the value of global investing. The Tennessee-born longtime resident of the Bahamas sold his funds to Sun Microsystems, Calif.-based Franklin Resources Inc. in 1992 and now pursues his interests in philanthropy and spiritual issues through the John Templeton Foundation. But at 87, he still follows global markets closely. In *Nation* recently he discussed the current dangers he sees with Eric Klitzman, a finance professor at Toronto's Rotman School of Management and a Maclean's contributor. Excerpt:*

**Maclean's:** In 1997, you said no one should open its eyes to the country in which they lived. Do you still believe that?

**Templeton:** No. I exaggerated back then. When I meant to say was no one should have more than 50 per cent of their assets in the country in which they live. It's just not logical to think that all the best investment will be found in one location. If you look everywhere, you will find lots of good opportunities. **Maclean's:** Yes, along with Warren Buffett, are you clearly associated with value-based investing as opposed to the world. Do you still follow value-based investing in your personal thinking?

**Templeton:** Let's put this on tape. The investing world is rapidly changing. When I first became an investment counsellor in 1937, there were only 17 mutual funds on earth. And their total assets were less than \$1 million. Today, on a given day, funds still in any name can take in as much as a billion in a day! Methods of selecting assets are more sophisticated and more dynamic. Up to five years ago, we thought that buying a share at low prices per share relative to earnings, assets and dividends was the right way to do it. But beginning five years ago, we had a psychological



Templeton 'buys bonds' and waits for 'surprises'

change where people stopped caring what the earnings or the dividends were. They only wanted to know whether it went up yesterday. We republished a 150-year-old book called *Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds*, about famous bubbles. I never thought people would get as wild as they are now.

I never imagined that people like Warren Buffett and Benjamin Graham and I would miss out. We are regarded as old-fashioned. Why listen to anyone who is still looking at assets and dividends? Instead, why not buy something that is going up more quickly?

The big question is—in this high-tech crisis a bubble? I, and almost everyone I know, say it is just like the South Sea or the Tulip Bulb crisis. The introductions of railroads, electricity, oil and airplanes each convinced people that the world wouldn't be the same. And in each case it wasn't. However, each created its own boom and bust. When the tech bubble

burst, it will be at least as bad as the Japan Bubble in the early 1990s, when the Nikkei fell from 30,000 to 14,000. **Maclean's:** In 1997, you listed Russia, India, Turkey, Ukraine and Brazil. Are there still some of your favourites?

**Templeton:** Up until two years ago, I could always find some nation whose stocks are still cheap. But in the last two years I haven't found one. I've got out of just about everywhere.

**Maclean's:** I have never heard you say anything like that before. **Templeton:** That's correct. And neither has [PBS interviewee] Louis Rukeyser. He was amazed in January when I said buy bonds, buy bonds! **Maclean's:** Have you been opposed to putting any assets into bonds.

**Templeton:** That has changed. But it is temporary. What you do is buy bonds, and wait for the opportunity to buy stocks again when they are bargain. I estimate that before the next century is over the Dow will be above 1,000,000. **Maclean's:** So the global bull market is over?

**Templeton:** That's a huge question. I've never been good at timing. But I'd say that chance is 50 per cent that it is over already. And it could be 10 years before you see the Nasdaq where it was on the 14th of March.

**Maclean's:** What do you consider to be a good representative rate of return for assets in any given year?

**Templeton:** Seven per cent. If you want to know where the market will be in 50 years, start in 1980 and project forward at seven per cent. Population increase has been steady but slow, inflation has been up and down but has averaged three per cent—and I expect that to continue—and productivity gains are accelerating. So when you add them all up, seven per cent for earnings and price of shares is pretty good. And that should hold on a world basis. ■

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## Unions: strife in the ranks

For most Canadians, the principal significance of Labour Day is that it's the last long weekend of the summer. But for those in the labour movement, the week leading up to this year's anniversary was fraught with the acrimonious divisions that have become typical of their activities. Partisan at the anti-riding smectera taken against his union by the Canadian Labour Congress, the head of the Canadian Auto Workers union, Burt Hargrove, launched a cross-Canada tour to talk directly to local leaders about their "expulsion" from the central body. Meanwhile, CLC executives insisted that the CAW had not, in fact, been bounced. And they publicly urged Hargrove not to "needlessly fan the flames of a difficult situation."

Still, that confrontational tone has been clearly reflected in the attitude and actions of Canadian workers over the past few months. Under tremendous public and political pressure, Air Canada pilots gradually struck a deal with the company, but still threatened not to ratify it. Independently, some 1,600 pilots working for Air Canada's regional divisions, who belong to a different union, were threatening an illegal walkout over the implications of that proposed contract for them. At the eleventh hour, a federal mediator last week helped to avert a potentially disruptive strike by 8,500 Transwestair pilots, the country's leading overnight charter service. On Aug. 23, just as their company was announcing a splashy \$6.6-billion takeover of Cinarco Communications, more than 1,000 workers at Telus call centres in British Columbia staged a wildcat strike. They were following the example of unionworkers at several General Motors plants in Oshawa, Ont., who suddenly stormed off the job for two days in mid-August.

Also punctuating the summer were a strike by nickel workers at the Falconbridge facility in Sudbury, Ont., a high-profile job action by service staff at 12 B.C. hotels, and the walkout of 12,000 forestry workers in that province. Teachers in Ontario have spent much of their vacation break discussing an strike in September, as well.

There are several reasons why strikers are running so high. First, the economy has been on an extended expansion, with corporations posting record profits. Workers feel they are being shorted out of the prosperity cycle, and several experts contend that they haven't made any real wage gains since 1975. In the first quarter of this year, the average wage hike for unionized employees was 2.5 per cent, lower than the 2.5-per-cent increase in consumer prices. In announcing last week that British Columbia is raising its minimum wage to \$7.60 an hour, Premier Ujjal Desai declared that

workers "must know their hard work means they are climbing ahead, not dipping back."

Another factor is that widespread corporate mergers have left many workers feeling insecure about the future of their jobs—especially those in the industrial, so-called Old Economy. While non-union employees in the high-technology field are in big demand and earn top dollar, others are being left behind.

That combination of frustration and insecurity is also evident among and within unions. In order to bolster membership, they have become increasingly competitive, even resorting to such unbrotherly activities as riding one another "like pure carnalities," says John Crapo, a labour-relations expert and professor emeritus at the Rotman School of Management in Toronto. "The sad truth is that unions are going nowhere numerically, structurally or politically." As they aggressively vie for new members, Canada's unions have become a hodgepodge of different factions. The CAW, for example, represents auto workers, nickel miners, airline ticket agents and food-services workers, among others. According to Crapo, that has created a "structural mess" in the union movement.

Yet another source of internal strife is the fact that unions adhere to strict seniority policies, and many younger workers are increasingly agitated by their inability to move ahead of a stubborn bottleneck of aging baby boomers. In a deliberate attempt to appeal to younger workers, the CLC recently announced a new hip-hop anthem intended to replace the union classic *Solidarity Forever*.

The labour movement has also suffered a setback on the political front. The traditional alliance with the New Democratic Party has worn thin and many labour leaders openly advocate a formal break with the party. At the same time, many governments—most notably the Harris government in Ontario—have introduced legislation aimed at weakening labour's clout. "Fact is, if you're not a force politically, you lose in terms of setting the rules of the game," says Crapo.

Still, it's not always clear what the game is anymore. A growing proportion of Canadians are now self-employed or work in small businesses. Anxious to limit their fixed costs for benefits and related overhead, big business has narrowed a generation of employees who work on a contract or freelance basis, making them almost impossible for labour unions to organize. Clearly, at this year's Labour Day parade, it was more difficult than ever for the various union representatives to march in step, let alone avoid clodding one another.

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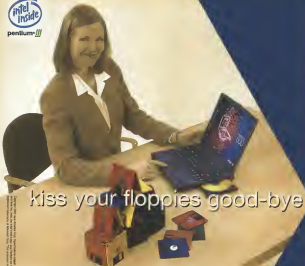


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#### Mutual funds

AGF Management Ltd. elevated itself to Canada's seventh-largest mutual fund firm from ninth by buying Global Strategic Holdings for \$438 million in cash and stock. AGF CEO Blake Golding said the merger of the two Toronto-based companies would give AGF the lift to expand globally.

#### Air Canada keeps Regional

Air Canada will maintain its near-monopoly on flights to smaller cities after no eligible bidder emerged for Canadian Regional Airlines Ltd., which the flag carrier acquired along with Canadian Airlines. A 60-day blind auction produced only one bid, well below a secret reserve price.

#### OSC charges Philip

The Ontario Securities Commission accused Philip Services Corp. and seven former top executives of hiding key facts—including fraud allegations—from investors in 1997. The industrial services firm has since been restructured and is moving its operations to Chicago from Hamilton.

#### Repay sale

Finnish forestry giant UPM-Kymmene Corp. bought Repap Enterprise Inc. for \$160 million plus \$1.2 billion in debt. The deal marked the end of the paper company formerly run by high-flying founder George Poy of Montreal. The name is paper spelled backwards.

#### Bidding for the LSE

The London Stock Exchange became the target of a \$4.7-billion hostile takeover bid by Stockholm's Nasdaq, owned by OM Gruppen AB. The move cut credit on plans by the LSE to merge with Frankfurt's market to form an exchange called XL.

#### Wall Street clout

Zurich-based Credit Suisse Group said it would buy U.S. investment bank Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette Inc. for \$17 billion and merge it with its U.S. arm, Credit Suisse First Boston. The deal will give Credit Suisse major clout on Wall Street.

## Business Notes



### A widening scandal over Firestone tires

Venezuelan officials, telling Bridgestone/Firestone tires used on Ford vehicles, are calling for criminal charges against both companies after a rash of accidents. As a mass recall continued in the United States and Canada, authorities warned that many replacement tires were even more defective than the originals.

### A big payoff for the Cisco kids

One of the giants of Silicon Valley, Cisco Systems Inc., paid \$544 million for tiny ProStream Inc. of Woodin, Okla., launched with a \$250,000 line of credit in 1996 by three partners: Marc Morin, 37, Steve Backe, 37, and Brad Sims, 32, together held 20 per cent of the firm, which developed a device allowing cable and telephone companies to deliver broadcast-quality TV and video over high-speed Internet lines. Among other big revenue winners were Oklawaha-based high-tech billionaire Terry Matthews and many of ProStream's employees.

### Financial Outlook

Thanks to government influence of cash, things are looking better on the fiscal. Total agricultural revenues hit a record \$16.2 billion for the first six

months of the year. The biggest boost came from government programs—payments are up 86 per cent from the same period in 1999. Almost two-thirds of that income is due to several one-time assistance programs in the hard-hit Prairie. The incentive helps farmers adjust to the elimination of transportation subsidies at a time of low prices. Crop sales continued to fall for the fourth straight year, largely due to lower grain and oilseed prices caused by a glut on the world market. But strong demand for red meat drove livestock revenues to record levels as prices rose in the hog and cattle industries.

#### UP ON THE FARM

Amount farmers collected in the first six months of this year

	Revenue	Change 1999
Grain income	\$4.8 billion	+2%
Livestock income	\$4.2 billion	+14.3%
Government payments	\$7.2 billion	+86%
Total farm income	\$16.2 billion	+8.6%

Source: Statistics Canada



# A champion's heartbreak

A back injury forces a rowing star to withdraw from the Sydney Games

For months, there had been signs that the McBean Machine was not running at full capacity. In early June, Canada's 33-year-old Olympic rower Maria McBean felt a "little twinge" in her lower back, a recurrence of a problem that had plagued her in 1999. Throughout the summer, she put in lackluster performances at European regattas, where she rowed the single sculls. Then two weeks ago, after a cramped 23-hour flight from Toronto to Sydney, Australia—home of the upcoming Olympics—her body seized up when she went for a run. McBean had known injury before: top athletes are conditioned to deal with discomfort. Besides, she was just weeks away from the final goal of her illustrious career—winning in her third consecutive Olympics. But the "little twinge" turned out to be two herniated spinal discs, and last week a worried McBean announced she was pulling out of the Games. "I feel I've dealt with this surprisingly well," McBean told *Maclean's* from the Canadian rowing team's training camp near Rockhampton, Australia. "But it may be because the training camp is in a circus place. Once we get to Sydney with the banners and the colours, I think it will start to sink in."

For more than a decade, McBean, with her wild shock of curly hair and forthright talk, has been one of Canada's most recognized and admired amateur athletes. A member of the national team since 1989, she spent the first part of her international career rowing in eight and pairs with her roommate Kathleen Hovde. To some degree, she bagged in the shadow of single-sculler Silken Laumann. But McBean has won 12 Olympic and world championships



McBean's low-spirited attitude has been at odds with her record as an athlete

in the single scull. She has also won medals, more than any other Canadian (Laumann took eight). Her most remarkable haul was two golds in the pairs and eights at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Even those numbers, however, fail to do justice to her athletic versatility: McBean is the only female rower in history to win international medals in all four boat classes. "Marie," said Uwe Bender, the veteran Australian rowing coach, "is Canadian rowing."

But for Canadian athletes, she's so much more. Her can-do attitude has been so commanding off the pond as on it. In 1995, she stirred FORTS—the Fund for Olympic Rowers Survival—to raise corporate money for her scrapping, underfunded teammates who couldn't attract sponsorship. Remarkably, McBean's altruistic plan, which has raised more than \$150,000, was almost scuttled by the Canadian Olympic Association, which claimed it

owned the copyright of the word Olympic. The COA backed down when McBean simply refused to change the name. She's put her ear in on other controversies as well. At the 1999 Pan-Am Games in Winnipeg, she chastised Canadian sprinter Donovan Bailey when he took a \$200,000 spokesman's fee from the Games' organizers and then did not attempt to qualify to run the 100-m.

For a woman so used to talking on any subject, she had to choke out the news that she was dropping out of the Games. She wanted to put the announcement off until she got to the Olympic Village in Sydney, but her injury kept her from training and she knew it wouldn't be long before word leaked out. Former Olympic swimmer Mark Tewksbury congratulated with

McBean's tough decision, but says she made the right move. "She has the wisdom to know that the body doesn't repair itself overnight," said Tewksbury, a gold medalist in 1992. "Having been so decorated as an Olympian, she knows that she doesn't need to add anything more to it, and it would have been foolish to carry on."

McBean hopes to march into the Olympic stadium and say at the athletes' village, but may be prevented from doing so under Olympic rules, officially, she's no longer on the team. And she worries. "No matter how included I am, I'll still feel like an outsider." As for her future, she says, "I want to race again. I just want to enjoy my sport again." A last-career comeback? For McBean, the consummate competitor, anything seems possible.

Jane O'Hara with Anne Kier



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## Health Monitor

### Warning at the waist

Pudgy men may be courting heart disease



Healthy and not-so-healthy waist: pressure

**Family physicians** can easily identify men at risk for heart disease by measuring their patients' waists and applying one other simple test, according to a leading Canadian researcher. Jean-Pierre Després of Quebec City's Laval University told a meeting of cardiologists in Amsterdam that men with waist sizes over 36 inches and a high level of triglycerides—a type of fat—in their blood have a high risk of developing heart problems within five years. "If physicians identify patients at risk earlier," he said, "they can work with them to prevent heart disease—instead of treating it later." He added that men can be at risk without di-

playing any of the classic heart-disease warning signs, such as high blood pressure or diabetes. Després based his recommendation on a study of 287 men that showed that only those with waist measurements greater than 36 inches and high triglyceride levels were at increased risk for heart disease. Després said he plans to conduct a similar study involving

women—who carry fat on different parts of their bodies than men—so if similar tests can be developed for them.

### Fetal response

In a study that confirms a popular belief, Canadian researchers have found evidence that fetuses can hear sounds from outside the womb by the eighth month of pregnancy. In an article published in the journal *Early Human Development*, researchers at the Queen's University school of nursing in Kingston, Ont., said that in tests in-

volving 186 pregnant women, fetuses responded to increased volumes of computer-generated sound with movement and increased heart rate. "What we still don't know," said Barbara Kliewer, the developmental psychologist who led the study, "is what causes heart and how clearly they distinguish sounds." She said the next step would be to determine whether sounds from outside the womb influence fetal development.

### Night-vision risk

The Canadian Medical Association has decided that laser eye surgery is a risk factor for driving because it can reduce night vision. Laser surgery, widely used in Canada to correct nearsightedness and other vision problems, is listed in the latest version of the CMA guidelines designed to help physicians determine whether patients can safely drive. "We can't stop people from having the surgery, but we can inform them of the problem," said Elaine Casson, a University of Ottawa eye researcher and a member of a CMA advisory committee. Research in Canada and Britain has shown that as many as half of those who undergo laser eye surgery suffer some loss of night vision.

### Saving spines

In a breakthrough that could someday enable doctors to repair spinal damage in humans, researchers used cells from pigs' noses to stimulate nerve growth in rats with severed spines. Reporting in the journal *Nature Biotechnology*, scientists at the Yale University medical school in New Haven, Conn., said by inserting a human gene that suppresses immune system response into pigs' nose cells they prevented the rats from rejecting the transplanted tissue. The researchers did microscopic examination of the injured animals showed nerve cells growing in both directions from the point at which their spines had been severed.

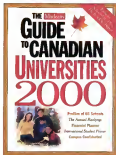
### A controversial clinic shuts down

With new hearings scheduled into Victoria's controversial Montreal Clinic, the founders of the centre for treating eating disorders surrounded their operating licence and some patient harm. The clinic shut its doors after three years of investigations and 26 days of hearings last year into charges that Montreal staff restrained and force-fed some patients, prevented some from leaving and treated a three-year-old boy for anorexia, despite not being licensed for patients under 18. Health officials ordered the clinic closed in of Jan. 31, but allowed it to continue operating pending an appeal. The latest allegations included charges that some staff members lacked training in handling potentially suicidal patients.

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Schmitt (left) with Courtney and Garrett pursue their stability

## Education

# A sullen September

Students are returning to class amid mounting tension

By John Schofield

It's almost harvest time on the lush farmland around Ingersoll, Ont., but 15-year-old Courtney Schmitt is not focused on the success of the family crop. For her, and her brother, Garrett, 9, the main event will be bounding a big yellow school bus this week, and heading down their dusty ride-along back to school. No doubt excited chatter will fill the air as they catch up with friends. But the mood at their schools will be a little less bright. As at many schools across

Canada, budget cuts and labour unions have dented teachers' morale. And for the fourth year running, Ontario has emerged as the epicentre of discontent. While union leaders have guaranteed that teachers will be in class this week, most at the high-school level have voted to strike if contract talks fail this fall. Once again, parents are wondering what lies ahead. "You never know what's going to happen next," says Leifley Schmitt, Courtney and Garrett's mother. "It's exhausting."

Peace could be hard to come by. Teachers across the country say they are sagging under the burden of heavier workloads and stagnant wages. Signs of stress abound. In British Columbia, a showdown is shaping up over the school accreditation process. Launched in the late 1970s, it requires principals, teachers, support workers, parents and students to assess the strengths and weaknesses of individual schools every six years, and to set public goals for improvement. Teachers at 295 of 252 schools slated for evaluation this fall are refusing to participate unless the procedure is streamlined, saying it only adds to an already onerous workload. Meanwhile, Saskatchewan teachers are negotiating with trustees and government officials in a bid to avert a provincewide strike, primarily over wages. After 10 years without a significant raise, their average salary now stands at \$45,000, putting them in eighth spot among the 13 provinces and territories. In Ontario, high-school teachers are still seeking from Bill 74, a law passed last spring that increases their workload by an extra half-class a year and gives the government the power to force them to supervise extracurricular activities. Pro-

cessor Mike Harris had his line on education is alienating many parents, as well. "The strike record so far," says John Langille, an Ottawa parent of three children, "seems to be one of confrontation rather than compromise."

The province's Conservative government insists that its reforms respond to long-standing concerns over the deteriorating quality of public schooling. Bill 74, it argues, simply brings teaching time up to national standards. And, it says, if teachers supervise extracurricular activities this fall, there will be no need to produce the portion of the law that makes them mandatory.

But according to the teachers' unions, it will be anything but business as usual in Ontario this fall. Bill 74 is bound to generate extra meeting and preparation, says Earl Mattson, president of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation. Combined with the rigors of implementing a new curriculum, and many teachers could find it difficult to supervise extracurricular activities. At the very least, he predicts, students will have fewer sports and clubs to choose from due to teachers' lack of time.

While the decision to avoid strike action is aimed at winning the public relations war, the threat remains. Contracts for high-school teachers expired on Aug. 31, and bargaining has begun in earnest. But teachers and school board officials say the government has all but tied their hands in negotiating collective agreements. For starters, funding is controlled by the province, which has recommended a maximum salary increase of 1.95 per cent this year after up to nine years of wage freezes for some teachers. In addition, legislation strictly defines a teacher's responsibilities, leaving little to discuss at the bargaining table. Mattson, who accuses the government of adopting a "hammer approach" to education, is adamant that Harris must come up with new funding if he wants teachers to supervise extracurricular activities. "No one wants a strike," says Doug Reynolds, a high-school history teacher in Ancaster, Ont. "But we can't go without a contract indefinitely."

The tensions in Ontario have glos-

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## Education

ward teachers across Canada. According to Larry Booi, president of the Alberta Teachers' Association, the main item on the agenda of a national meeting of teachers' union presidents in June was the business of confronting the Harris government. Clearly, they are concerned that other provinces will copy Harris's reforms. The move to enforce the suppression of extracurricular activities, says Booi, "was regarded as a blatant assault on the profession. What's happening in Ontario," he adds, "is the biggest immediate concern to teachers around the country."

Many teachers, however, have simply grown weary of the struggle. According to Reynolds, long-term disability claims for stress-related illnesses have never been higher at his school board. Last spring, Jacqueline Keys decided to leave teaching after two years with the Durham District School Board, east of Toronto. At a teacher, Keys typically arrived at school at 7:30 a.m., worked until 6 p.m., headed home to eat, then continued marking and preparing lessons until 11—all for an annual salary of \$31,000. Now a production supervisor at a local automotive plant, Keys, 26, finds her hours are more regulated and her salary is much higher. "People think that teachers come in at 9 and leave at 3, and that's the end of their day," says Keys. "I really enjoyed teaching, but I just found I had no time for myself."

For most parents and students, however, leaving the public school system is not an option. More than anything, they want an end to the bickering, and a return to stability. Still, by refusing to guarantee the supervision of all extracurricular activities, the province's public high school teachers are throwing down a gauntlet at the government's feet. "What we've got is a firestorm wound that's been festered over the last four years," says Liz Sandals, president of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association. "Somehow this fall, we need to find a way to settle the issues and calm things down." But as an unusually cool summer comes to a close, the heat may be just beginning to rise. ■

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# Margaret's Museum

By John Benrose

In the corner of an old-fashioned red brickstone booth in a downtown Toronto restaurant, Margaret Atwood is laughing. She has been talking about how difficult it was to start her new novel, *The Blind Assassin* (McClelland & Stewart), and the celebrated author is suddenly and mightily amused at the memory of how she kept grasping at narrative threads that led nowhere. At first she thought the novel would be about her grandmother. But she soon realized there was one little problem: Atwood knew almost nothing about her,

except for the fact that she had been an enthusiastic but terrible knitter of garments for First World War troops. "She couldn't even make a washcloth come out square," Atwood recalls. Later, she found herself focusing on a character who was pointing his attic. But that turned out to be wrong, too. "I thought, no, he'll have to point his attic in some other book, even though it was a very nice shade." And the character was a sustained, quaking survivor, as though the world were full of children that have her little choice. Today, though, there's a shadow on her enjoyment. As Atwood talks, she keeps managing to get over her right eye: the author

Atwood: in one of the most ambitious novel careers she has created, the author spots out the century-long saga of a once-wealthy family

In her new novel, *The Blind Assassin*, Canada's premier novelist looks back on the 1900s through the prisms of class and gender politics

is prone to migraines, and it's clear that, for her, getting a new book launched can be as strenuous, in its way, as writing one.

In the other booth, patrons are rubbernecking to catch a glimpse of the author of *Surfacing*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Alias Grace* and 36 other books of fiction, poetry and criticism. At 60, with her still-dark mass of curly hair and heavily lidded eyes, Atwood is arguably the most recognizable writer in the country—a situation she claims not to find burdensome since, she says, "This is Canada. People don't scream and listen when they see you. They walk quietly past you and then they—" and she twirls her head around in a wickedly accurate imitation of just the sort of discreet gawking going on nearby.

In any case, Atwood is about to endure a whole lot more public exposure. In Canada, the launch of *The Blind Assassin* is easily the most event of the fall publishing season, one that will take the author on a cross-country tour for an arduous series of interviews and book signings. And her work will end there. In the past, there has usually been a break of several months between the Canadian and foreign launches of her books, but this year the Americans, British, Dutch and German editions are coming out almost simultaneously. So when Atwood finishes in Canada, she'll go on immediately to an American tour, followed by a long stint in Europe.

Atwood jokes about the effect of this three-month blitz of hand-hopping on her health, but it's clear that institutional fame isn't without its costs. She hopes to survive, she says, by taking vitamins, not eating meat and drinking lots of water. "Me and my digestive system are going on tour," she deadpans. "Which of us will come back?" She also hopes to avoid the repetitive-strain injury that sometimes plagues her when she has to sign too many books. Atwood often ends up with sore muscles in her back from all the signing, and a soon-left arm from opening and closing hundreds of copies of her novels. "I really need an opener and a closer," she says. Is there nothing pleaster, then, about touring? "Sometimes," she allows, "you meet interesting people, but the trouble is, you never can be with them for any length of time."

As for *The Blind Assassin*, Atwood may have rejected the idea of writing it about her grandmother, but the novel is still haunted by an old woman, 82-year-old Iris Griffin. In one of the most ambitious social canvases Atwood has created, Iris—looking back from the vantage point of the late 1990s—spins out the century-long saga of her once-wealthy family. That story runs tragic: when her younger sister Laura drives a car off a Toronto bridge at the age of 25. The tale shifts back and forth between the fictional southern Ontario town of Port Townsend, where Iris and Laura grew up, and Toronto, where they go to live after Iris' marriage to Richard Collier, a prominent industrialist with a penchant for mismanaging other people's lives.

Atwood clearly had some fun researching her book: that she did starting it. She gobbled up small-town histories as well as old newspaper social columns, and with her partner, novelist Graeme Gibson, toured southern Ontario searching for its appropriate setting. In the end, Port Townsend became a composite of three conspicuously pretty southern Ontario towns: Elora, Paris and St. Mary's. Atwood met a great deal about the early industries in those places, and any questions about *The Blind Assassin* are likely to set her off on a tangent about old mills (Iris' grandfather owns a button factory). She is particularly fascinated by the various styles of small-town wage transactions and the way they glorified the horrendous losses of war. "I mean, it's like from what their kids were intended," she says with a chuckle. "They didn't go off thinking, 'Oh goshie, I'm going to be slaughtered for the greater glory of mankind.'"

Atwood's laughter, of course, has a serious note to it, and *The Blind Assassin*—far from a formidable narrative appeal—in driven at least in part by a desire to dissect social realities. There is a peek down the book about class, particularly the line between: on the one hand, the upper crust of which Iris is part (the middle class is at best absent); Iris, Laura and Richard lead lives of enormous privilege; but while the women seem conscious and even guilty about this, Richard glories in his power. In fact, the book is in many ways about the self-interest of the

upper classes—a subject Atwood dates has been taboo in Canada since the McCarthy era, when class-based analysis of social problems fell into disrepute as too dangerously provocative. “We pretend class isn’t even in our society, and of course we’re quite wrong about that,” she says. Do we make problems for ourselves, then, by ignoring the issue of class? “I think about the upper class,” she says, “what are they doing? They are really a band of people with a common interest in making conditions better for themselves. And so just to take one example—if these people own the newspapers and communications systems, what kind of news are we going to get?” Atwood takes a sip of her cranberry juice. “Maybe it’s time to think about the issue of class again.”

The novel also explores a favorite Atwood theme: the brains placed on women by power structures controlled by men.

The novel offers a gloomy vision of human beings, with their penchant for domination and selfishness, yet it also includes moments of courage and generosity

Since she belongs to a generation that came of age in the 1950s, Iris has a vivid experience of social politics in the days before Women’s Lib. She is expected to be an ornament to Richard’s career—a gilded bird in the cage of his wealth—while Laura, too, must submit to his mounting power for control. All this may sound as though Atwood were flapping a dead horse; after all, hasn’t the lot of women improved radically since those days? But Atwood believes the old male urge to dominate is never too far beneath the surface. “Read the papers lately?” she asks with a flash of rhetorical vehemence. “You think of these men who, rather than relinquish control, kill their wives, their children and themselves.” A moment later, she expands on her observation: “I really think control is at the heart of it,” she says. “Doctors have very high suicide rates, and I think the reason is, if you’re drawn to destroy, you’re drawn to try, perfect solutions. But you cannot make a tiny, perfect solution for your life.”

Atwood digs even deeper into her themes of class and sexual repression in another tale, held within Iris’s tale like a locket within a shawl. Purportedly written by Laura and published after her death, this novel-within-a novel, which also bears the title “The Blind Assassin,” focuses on an unnamed married woman who meets secretly with her lover, a fugitive from the anti-communist sentiments of the 1950s. Their trysts are beautifully evoked, with the man’s tenderness and the woman’s devoted coveting in a fascinating po de deux of tenderness, pain and love. To entertain his lover, the man invents a dark fable about a kingdom he

calls Siskid-Norn, a place where the upper classes make blood sacrifices of young women. The hero of this story is a young man who has lost his sight after years of forced labor in a rug-weaving factory, and whose superhuman sense of touch enables him to become a professional assassin who can operate on the darkest of nights.

Atwood’s masterful rendering of the blind assassin story echoes the cruel will to power that, in Richard’s household, is usually hidden behind a screen of gentility. And it lends a powerfully mythical dimension to the novel. “My ride has many meanings,” Atwood says with an enigmatic smile, but she won’t explain what they are. She’ll leave that to the critics. In any case, it’s certainly clear that by the end of the book the very idea of a blind assassin has become a potent, multi-layered symbol which stands not only for death itself, but for the random cruelty of life, and for a kind of natural justice—

a balancing mechanism, drop written fate—that not even Richard, for all his worldly power, can escape.

It could be argued that *The Blind Assassin* offers a fairly gloomy vision of human beings, with their penchant for domination and selfishness, for having their own adventures at the expense of others. Atwood allows that several characters in her book act that way. “But in this,” she says, “people are really as different from other biological forms. Think of those birds having their adventures at the expense of others in that Halloway park,” she says, referring to an ongoing infestation there of longhorn beetles. Yet Atwood doesn’t think her novel is pessimistic, for it offers several examples of courage and generosity as well. In fact, the author believes human beings are unique precisely because they can rise above the narrow channels of self-interest. “People aren’t like mosquitoes,” she insists. “I mean, the mosquito never has a point when he says, ‘I’m going to do something nice for the other mosquitoes.’ He never says, ‘I’ll overcome the fact that I’m going to end up as a meal on the windshield by creating a nice place for mosquitoes to eat.’”

Atwood charities is the very idea of mosquitoes are and takes another sip of her drink. Her headache seems to have abated, and in the nearby booths, the patrons have grown less inquisitive, accustomed now to the celebrity in their midst. “Selfishness and fear may be part of our biology,” Atwood adds finally. “But as humans, we have other options.” Opens such as writing novels as richly layered as *The Blind Assassin* and revealing the between-contradictions by which we live. ■

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## Films

# Irony with a side of romance

*Nurse Betty* is the absurdist tale of a deluded soap opera fan

By Brian D. Johnson

Being unable to tell the difference between the real world and one created for television has become a new kind of American virus. From Jerry Garvey's heroic gullibility as an unwitting TV star in *The Truman Show* to the mass delusion of viewers dotting on the can-can "rafter" of *Scraper*, naïve suspension of disbelief is pop culture's reigning fetish. You can wear it both ways, like a reversible parka: enjoy the fantasy as it turns inside out and vice the experience with cynical superiority.

*Nurse Betty* is no latter model. This dark comedy about a soap-opera fan who falls through the looking glass in reminiscences of *Trueman, Being There, Being John Malkovich* and *To Die For*—a fable about a chance lost on the borderline between life and art. Throw in a hair-raising rush of Tarantino violence—a scalp, no less—and *Nurse Betty* starts to look like yet another prescription for an uneasy overdose. But this movie takes an unexpected turn. Just when you think the joke is winding then and about to finish it as a dove but shallow conceit that cannot possibly be sustained, *Nurse Betty* turns into something altogether different, and weirdly engrossing—a shot in the arm for the aging formula of romantic comedy.

Inside Zellweger, who has made a career of playing earnest heroines—from the ingenue in *Jerry Maguire* to the ditz of *101 Dalmatians*—is a woman in small-town Kansas. Neglected by her co-seniorate love of a husband, she looks for love on daytime soap. One night, while watching a taped episode, she witnesses the brutal murder of her husband (Aaron Eck-



Rock (left), Freeman, Zellweger, director Neil LaBute give beyond cynicism

hart) by two hit men (Morgan Freeman and Chris Rock). The trauma jolts her into a new, deluded identity: Betty comes to believe she is the nurse once jilted by Dr. David Ravell, her soap-opera idol. Determined to reunite with him, she has the road and truck burn down at the Los Angeles "hospital" where the show is produced.

With her scratched-up eyes, always so intently fixed on the emotion at hand, Zellweger pulls off a challenging role with unwavering conviction. Greg Kinnear is memorably cast as George, the manicured actor who plays the doctor—and mistakes Betty for an exceptional method actor. And as the oddball hit man who tail her to Los Angeles, Freeman and Rock make a hilarious duo—Freeman as a sentimental fool, and Rock as his impulsive protégé.

*Nurse Betty* picks up all the loose threads of American independent film—from visceral shock to absurdist soap—and bundles them with a flair for comic melodramatic reminiscence of Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar. Remarkably, the movie was directed by Neil LaBute, who established himself as the most cynical filmmaker in America with his first two features, *In the Con-*

pany of Men and *Your Friends & Neighbors*. With *Nurse Betty*, the first of his features that he has not written, LaBute salvages genuine romance from the cynicism—undone by enough provocative crudity to prove he hasn't gone soft.

For those who prefer their soap opera straight up, *The Way of the Gun* offers a grisly mix of carnage, roman, back-room surgery and painful dialogue. Directed by Christopher McQuarrie—who won an Oscar for writing *The Usual Suspects*—this contemporary western serves as a tough-guy initiation rite for Hollywood pretty boys Ryan Phillippe and Benicio Del Toro. They play desperados who kidnap a very pregnant carriage mother—Julianne Louis, glowing new depots of degradation—and try to exact a ransom from the gangster who has hired her. This movie, too, features a doctor who acts as if he only plays one on television. And for viewers whose sense of irony is refined enough to enjoy watching a woman undergo a cesarean section at a Mexican villa while a bloody shoot-out rages around her, *The Way of the Gun* may seem like heaven. Others may feel trapped in a post-Torresano hell, screaming for *Nurse Betty*. **B**



## He shoots, he scores

Tiger Woods, the hottest athlete on earth, searches for history at the Canadian Open

Osheville, Ont., may not be ready to be the center of the sports universe, but it will have to adjust this week. Tiger Woods is going there to play in the Bell Canadian Open, and when Woods goes, a media blitz follows. Normally quiet golf tournaments are suddenly overrun with satellite-linked TV trucks, camera crews and reporters, all trying to get up close and personal with The Most Famous Athlete on Earth, successor to Muhammad Ali and Michael Jordan. Woods delivers big crowds and bigger TV ratings, and in return, he has an endorsement portfolio worth an estimated \$150 million. The Open got lucky. It is the third-oldest tournament still being contested in North America, and to Woods, who plays

## People

Edited by Shanda Drouot

*Woods' record-setting victories at three of golf's majors*

fewer than half the scheduled PGA Tour events, that is an attraction. The 24-year-old Californian is single-minded in his pursuit of history, and he has already made plenty of it this summer. With this season's record-setting victories at the U.S. and British opens and the PGA championships, and his 1997 Masters triumph, Woods joined an elite club: Previously, only Ben Hogan,

Gene Sarazen, Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player had ever won all four major championships—golf's grand slam—in their careers. "It is mentioned in the same breath as those guys makes it very, very special," Woods says. And with a victory in the Open at Glen Abbey Golf Club this week, Woods would match the feat of another legend, Lee Trevino, who is the only player ever to hold three national open championships in a single year, including Canadian. Despite a strong field that includes four of the top 10 money-winners on tour this season, Woods is the prohibitive favorite in Osheville. He can hit his drives the length of three football fields and he is deadly accurate. He also has won eight Tour events this year, and has already collected nearly \$8 million (U.S.) in prize money, breaking his own single-season record for tournament earnings by more than \$1 million. But the scarier part for his opponents is that Woods is especially tough to beat when a piece of golf's history is within his reach.

## Two Dublins for Donoghue

For someone only 30 years old, Emma Donoghue has already written a considerable body of work—capped by her new book *Slavesonnet*. The critically acclaimed novel takes its title from an 18th-century word for a loose dress and—by extension—a loose woman. It's the compelling tale of Mary Saunders, child prostitute and murderer, based on an actual 1763 murder conviction in Wales. The Dublin-born Donoghue, winner of the 1997 American Library Association's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Award for her novel *Flood*, moved here in 1988 and now makes her home in London, Ont. There, she lives with Chris

Rudman, her partner since 1994 and a French professor at the University of Western Ontario. The author, the youngest of eight children—her elder brother, David, is Ireland's ambassador to Russia—has been in Ontario long enough to have seen a bookstore advertise her as a Canadian writer. "I was delighted," she says, pleased with her new country's "open

*Donoghue profile wrote*



definition" of itself. Nor do Canadians "go on and on about being 'inborn.' I'm so impressed—I get my job of that in Ireland." Now Donoghue, for the first time, has turned to a Canadian setting. Her next novel will take place partly in Dublin, Ont., a hamlet 50 km north of London, and partly in the original Dublin. And, in a neat reversal of cliché, Donoghue laughs, the booming Irish capital "will be the modern place and the New World town the backwater."

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## Ten characters in search of a million

Susan Neff had been waiting for this phone call her entire life. Answering trivia questions, says the 44-year-old housewife from Rochester, Ore., is "the one thing I happen to be really qualified to do." So she was thrilled to learn she would be a contestant on the Canadian version of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*, taping in New York City on Sept. 7. Neff says that when she was a child, her father quizzed his children nightly around the dinner table.



Wishing, Neff (left) contestants who grew up on trivia

"I had indignation most of the time," she says, "because it was so intense."

Neff, an avid reader who has a BA in psychology from the University of Waterloo, is one of 10 contestants—five from Victoria, two from Regina, four from Ontario and two from Quebec—who will vie for \$1 million during two one-hour segments that CTV will air in Sept. 13 and

14. The finalists were randomly selected, along with two alternates, from the 3,741 people among 755,597 calls for a month to CTV's quiz hotline who provided correct answers to five questions. The other contestants include a lawyer, a computer-game designer, a callie pig manager—and a graduate student in radiocarbon. Shannon Sullivan, 24, who attends Memorial University in St. John's, Nfld., has been playing *Trivial Pursuit* since age 10. "My parents used to make fun of me for being such a trivia junkie," he says. "Now I'll have the last laugh."

All 12 contestants and alternates get to bring someone with them for the New York taping with host Pamela Wallin. Neff, who will be accompanied by the youngest of her two daughters, 20-year-old Elizabeth, has been poring over Canadian almanacs and encyclopedias for a year and a half to prepare for *Millionaire*. "Did you know that the guano roller was invented by a Canadian in 1940?" she asks, gleefully adding, "I find that so intriguing. I'm having a great time studying—and this will be my first trip anywhere outside Canada except for a childhood trip to Detroit." Sullivan, meanwhile, is working out which friend held out for his "lifetime" and looking forward to his first visit to New York. "I'm taking my father because he's been to the city before, and he'd also make the least useful lifeline out of anyone I know."

## Pop Movies

1. <i>Being in the Game</i> (R) (V).....	\$2,994,900
2. <i>The Last of the Mohicans</i> (V).....	\$1,950,199
3. <i>The Bell</i> (V) (V).....	\$1,102,934
4. <i>What Lies Beneath</i> (V) (V).....	\$702,232
5. <i>Before the Rain</i> (V) (V).....	\$544,000
6. <i>The Englishman</i> (V) (V).....	\$441,545
7. <i>Agent Double-O</i> (V) (V).....	\$312,374
8. <i>Arrest in New York</i> (V) (V).....	\$260,953
9. <i>Double Edge</i> (V) (V).....	\$203,240
10. <i>Wonderful World</i> (V) (V).....	\$181,139

Top movies in Canada, based on weekend box office receipts during the week days that ended on August 31. (No includes number of screens in which playing.)

Source: Entertainment Weekly Inc.



Review: migratory psychologists

## Psycho-dude

How would Hollywood cope without the serial killer, that master of the big screen? The latest appears in *The Winner*, the story of a shell-shocked FBI agent (James Spader) who moves to Chicago from Los Angeles to re-group, only to find that in L.A. psychopath (Keanu Reeves) has followed him there.

TV client base is less meagre, he says, "Getting people to talk in open detail about intimate aspects of their lives is not hard in America."

Video viewers will get another source of gratification this fall with *LOVE: The Web* channel, chronicling in real time a year in the lives of eight men and women sharing a downtown Toronto loft, launches in mid-October. A nightly half-hour broadcast version will also air on—what else?—The Life Network.

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## Television

## Boob-tube shrink, Web roommates

The rapidly expanding universe of reality TV now includes the analysis couch. Starting on Sept. 11, it's 136 North American TV stations and cable networks will begin airing *HouseCall*, which features Toronto

psychiatrist Irvin Wolcott counseling families. Initial episodes, filmed in August, follow Wolcott as he helps Los Angeles-area families (he will travel for future segments) deal with everything from intrusive mothers-in-law to rebellious teenagers. Wolcott, 48, whose biweekly column on psychiatric aspects in *The Toronto Star*, participated in a similar show involving Canadian patients for three seasons between 1990 and 1994, but it aired on only a few markets. His new





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## Entertainment Notes

### Best-Sellers

## Factum

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <b>THE BURNING ROOMS</b> , Margaret Atwood (2)    |   |
| 2. <b>THE BOSS AND THE CHANGING</b> , Ben Clancy (2) | 4 |
| 3. <b>WORTH THE STRIDE</b> , Rosemarie Nitke (2)     | 2 |
| 4. <b>ALL A BURNING</b> , Michael Ondaatje (2)       | 3 |
| 5. <b>CRUELTY BECOMES</b> , Kelly Benko (2)          | 1 |
| 6. <b>NO LAST IMPRESSION</b> , Elsie Westland (2)    | 4 |
| 7. <b>THE BOWLING GREENS</b> , D.L. Taylor (2)       | 2 |
| 8. <b>PEOPLE CAN BE</b> , Anne Lee Rader (2)         | 1 |
| 9. <b>THE MARCH</b> , Edward Taylor (2)              | 3 |
| 10. <b>WHEN WE WERE DIFFERENT</b> , Anne Rader (2)   | 4 |

### Nonfiction

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. PUT THE PITCHER, John Leveson (22)          | 1 |
| 2. WAS SOME NOISE, Glenn Gould (2)             | 4 |
| 3. IN A SUMMER COUNTRY, Ed Sheeran (22)        | 3 |
| 4. TUGGERS WITH NOBLES, Walsingham (3)         | 8 |
| 5. FROM GUINNESS TO BUCKLE, Jacques Martin (5) | 2 |
| 6. SING-CHAINED-CHANGING, Wray Gribble (2)     | 1 |
| 7. WAS NODD BY DESERT, Spenser Martin (2)      | 8 |
| 8. LITTLE SAME, Francis Green (2)              | 6 |
| 9. SEEN TO MISS AND WAIT, Antoinette (2)       | 2 |
| 10. BIRTH CONFIDENTIAL, Andrew Franklin (2)    | 1 |

11 Words are lost.  
Completed by Brian Bredner

## Terry Fox's 20th

To mark the 20th anniversary of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope, McClelland & Stewart has issued a revised edition of *Terry Fox: Life Story*, by *Newsweek* star columnist Leslie Scowen. Fox had his right leg amputated above the knee because of cancer in 1977, when he was 18. On April 12, 1980, he set out from St. John's, Nfld., on a cross-country run to raise money for cancer research. Fox had to endure pain, hostile drivers and bad weather, but he also saw growing support for his quest. By the time he reached Ontario, the entire nation was applaud-



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## A case of Olympic envy

One of those magazines that knows about such things reports that 48 per cent of the millionaires in Canada live in Toronto.

One can just hear a chorus of whoppers from *Dreammaker* and *Chances* and *Time*, crying: "They deserve it." Love for *Hogtown* has still not permeated the lord, especially with its recent status of wanting to become a city-state, sort of on the same status as Spain.

Toronto actually is a quite an amazing place, amazing in the "secular" sense because it thinks it is much more important than it really is. In topography, it is flatter than Regina, the only protruding feature being the waters of the boys' lurch at the Toronto Club, checking their eyes at the door.

In current fit of hubris is the blithering nonsense that it is a serious candidate for the 2008 Olympic Games—now that it has got on the shortlist that includes Osaka, Japan, Istanbul, Paris and Beijing.

The sudden rash of madness, in the away portion of the world games in Sydney for festivities run by NBC, is led by the goofy ratings called *mayor*, one Mel Lastman, who is an embarrassment when let off the leash and allowed abroad. His passport should have been cancelled years ago, on the simple grounds of bad taste.

His *Malness* leads a merry band of dreamers to Australia, although the Toronto innocents will not learn the true lessons of life until next summer in Moscow, where the 2008 winner will be announced.

What the Toronto gang does not realize (there is nothing more insular than a large city like New York) is that the Olympics has nothing to do with sport and is now based on politics—propensity to be more precise.

You will understand that it has nothing to do with sport when, on Sept. 25, you watch on your screen the final of the 100-m. At the starting line will be the finest specimens of speed gathered from round the globe.

Jose Owens, who won four gold medals in Hitler's 1936 Olympics in Berlin, was perhaps five feet, nine inches and weighed 155 lb., asking you: All the talk on the starting line in Sydney, your screen will reveal, look like they have been recent graduates of the Charter Arms school of springing and have taken postgraduate degrees from Joe Weider, a hunk thier yesterday who invented bodybuilding.

Ben Johnson, as we all remember through our Seoul years, approached the starting line as an ambulatory diatribe. He had muscles on his muscles. Jose Owens couldn't have lifted his phantasy bill.

Admitted, just as the Olympics now have nothing to do with sport, they have nothing to do with the virginal innocence displayed by Mel and his madmen. They are ruled by the realities of what Marshall McLuhan predicted the world would be turned into—a global village.

After our latest world war, Canada—Lester Pearson and his Nobel Peace Prize and all that—was actually regarded as a good "second power," despite our minuscule population on the global scale. It's why we're in the G-7 grouping of industrial powers, with such genuine heavyweight as the United States, Germany, Britain and France.

When the Europeans insisted firmly wobbly Italy be included, Washington—fearing it would be outvoted by the Europeans—insisted that Italy would be allowed only if losing-cousin Canada could be included—creating a consensus vote for the Yanks.

The G-7 concept, of course, is ridiculous. Why should little Canada be in there, let alone wobbly Italy, when China is outside the fence? India? Why not Brazil? Even Nigeria?

It's the same with the Olympics. Geopolitical rules. The same people who recent such lightweight as Canada and Italy being given the cachet of the G-7 demand their overbalancing population be given due concern. The purblindness of the International Olympic Committee, whose only qualification for admission is you, have loved to geopolitics.

Just Antonio Samaranch, the IOC chief who has ruled this collection of cashmere blue blazers for two decades—about as long as the idealistic Baron de Coubertin, inventor of the modern Olympics—knows that China has never hosted the Olympics. Which is why Beijing—lost by two-thirds vote to Sydney last time around—is a cinch for 2008.

This department, which, as you know, never keeps a secret away from the media, will even reveal the host city of the 2012 Olympics. It will be Johannesburg (Cape Town being too beautiful to be ruled by Olympic Coca-Colonization).

Africa has never hosted the Games. Toronto, you are naive beyond belief.



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